This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

ABRIDGMENT
OF THE
FIELD EXERCISE
1854.

231. c.
40.

Digitized by Google

600080626S

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

FIELD EXERCISE AND EVOLUTIONS

OF THE

INFANTRY,

FOR THE USE OF THE MILITIA.

1854.

Published, by Authority,

BY

PARKER, FURNIVALL AND PARKER,

MILITARY LIBRARY, WHITEHALL,

LONDON.

231. C. 40.

Digitized by Google

LONDON:
PRINTED BY C. ROWORTH AND SONS, BELL YARD,
TEMPLE BAR.

Digitized by Google

INTRODUCTION.

In the compilation of this Manual of Instructions in Field Movements, it is assumed that the regiments of Militia have been sufficiently taught the preliminary drill of a recruit, and that he knows his facings, his time of march and length of pace, his wheelings, &c., without a knowledge of which no movement, however simple, can be correctly performed.

The movements are confined to the most necessary of those in which the Army is instructed, and to such only as have been found to be practically useful on service.

A knowledge of those movements will enable any regiment to act in brigade with the troops of the Line; the principles and words of command being the same whether corps act singly or in large bodies; battalions being, in such cases, what companies are to a battalion.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

CONTENTS.

PART I.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE MOVEMENTS OF A BATTALION.

SEC.		PAGE
1.	Commands	7
2.	Degrees of March	7
3.	Marching in Line	8
4.	Wheeling	10
5.	Movements	12
6.	The Alignment	13
7.	Points of Formation	14
8.	Dressing	17
9.	Open Column	19
10.	Column at Quarter Distance and Close Column	27
11.	Echellon	31
12.	Squares	38
13.	Firings	39

PART II.

FORMATION OF THE BATTALION. 44

When the Battalion takes Open Order 46
When the Battalion resumes Close Order 47

EVOLUTIONS OF THE BATTALION. 48

MOVEMENTS FROM LINE.

1. When the Battalion halted, and correctly dressed, is to advance in Line 48
2. When a Battalion advancing in Line is to Charge 49
3. When the Battalion moving in Line passes a Wood, or other Impediment, to Front or Rear, by the Flank March of Companies in File 49
4. When the Battalion advances or retires by Half Battalions, and Fires 50

Digitized by Google

SEC. PAGE

5. A Battalion formed in Line may have to move to attack, or to pass a Bridge, or short Defile, to the Front, from either Flank, or from the Centre 51
6. When the Battalion, halted in Line, is to form Square on any named Company 53

QUARTER DISTANCE AND CLOSE COLUMN.

7. When a Battalion forms a Close or Quarter Distance Column from Line 55
8. When the Column, at Close or Quarter Distance, marches to a Flank 57
9. When the Column at Quarter Distance, moving to the Front, or Rear, takes Ground to the Right, or Left, by the Echellon March of Sections 58
10. When a Column, halted at Close or Quarter Distance, is to Wheel on a fixed or a movable Pivot 58
11. When a Close or Quarter Distance Column is to change its Front, by the Wheel and Countermarch of Sub-Divisions round the Centre .. 60
10*. When a Column at Close or Quarter Distance is to open out to Full or Half Distance from the Front or Rear 61
11*. When the Battalion, in Column of Companies, at Close or Quarter Distance (Right in Front) deploys into Line 62

ECHELLON FORMATION AND MOVEMENTS.

12. When a Battalion from Line wheels forward by Companies to either Flank into Echellon 65
13. When the Battalion, having wheeled from Line into Echellon, has marched and halted, and is to form back parallel to the Line it quitted 66
14. When the Battalion, formed in Line, changes Front, on a fixed Flank Company, by throwing forward the rest of the Battalion 66
15. When the Battalion changes Front on a fixed Flank Company, by throwing backward the rest of the Battalion 68
16. When the Battalion changes Front on a Central Company, by advancing one Wing and retiring the other 69
17. When, from Line, the Companies of a Battalion march off in Echellon, successively and directly to the Front, and again form in Line, either to the Front or to the Flank 69
18. When a Battalion in Echellon of Companies, halted, or in motion, is required to form Square 70
19. When a Battalion marching in Line is to take ground to a Flank by the Echellon movement of Sub-Divisions or Sections 70

Digitized by Google

PART I.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE MOVEMENTS OF A BATTALION.

Sec. 1. Commands.

ALL words of command must be given short, quick, and loud, so as to be heard and understood from right to left of a battalion in line; or from front to rear of a battalion in column. And indeed every officer must be accustomed to give his words of command, even to the smallest bodies, in the full extent of his voice, and in a sharp tone, in order to be heard by the leaders of other corps who are dependent on his motions. The confidence and prompt obedience of the soldier can only be in proportion to the firm, decided and proper manner in which every officer gives his orders.

2. The field officers and adjutant of the battalion are at all times mounted, in order to give ground in movements, to correct mistakes, to circulate orders, to dress pivots, when they ought to cover in column in a straight line, and to take care when the column halts, that they are speedily adjusted before wheeling up into line. No dismounted officer can possibly perform the duties required of those who fill such situations.

Sec. 2. Degrees of March.

General Instruction. 1. All military movements are intended to be made with quickness consistent with order, regularity, and without hurry or fatigue to the troops.

Slow March. 2. The slow step is only applicable to purposes of parade.

Digitized by Google

Quick March.

3. The *Quick March* is the usual pace to be applied to all general movements of battalions, or greater bodies, in column or line.

Double March.

4. The *Double March* is only to be applied to the movements of the divisions of a battalion; that is, to the interior movements of the division of a battalion when forming on any of its fixed parts. It cannot be applied to the movements of greater bodies, without exhausting the men, except upon peculiar occasions for a short distance; as in a charge, or where a post or position is to be seized, or the wheel of a column to be performed. In echellon movements the *Double March* may be safely applied to sub-divisions or sections, when used in rapid formations from line to square, and from square to line, or for quickly throwing back or forward a flank; but not to the march of companies or strong divisions in echellon changes of front or position. The double march must never be applied to file marching, except in the formation of square on the two centre sub-divisions.

Sec. 3. Marching in Line.

1. The march in line, either to front or rear, is the most important and most difficult of all movements, and requires every exertion of commanding officers and every attention of officers and men for its true attainment. The essential points to be observed are, the perpendicular direction of the march, to the front of the battalion as then standing;—the perfect squareness of shoulders and body of each individual;—the light touch of the files to the directing point;—and the accurate equality of cadence and step given by advanced serjeants.

Directing Serjeants.

2. Every individual should therefore be well prepared for this movement. But to ensure its correct execution, three directing serjeants must be formed in the centre of the battalion, upon whose exact cadence, step, squareness of body, and precision of movement, dependence can be placed. They will be posted as follows; one between the colours in the front rank, covered by another in the

Digitized by Google

rear rank, and again covered by a third in the supernumerary rank.

3. At all times when the battalion is formed in line, and directed to advance, the front directing serjeant, of the three who lead the line, takes six paces to his front and halts; the two other serjeants who were covering him pass through the interval, and move upon each side of him; an officer or serjeant from the rear replaces the leading serjeant in the front rank, and is again covered by the serjeant-major six or eight paces in rear of the line. These three points being corrected by the adjutant, or a mounted officer, a fourth point in prolongation is easily obtained. If a distinct and visible object should present itself in the true line, the mounted officer will order the directing serjeant to march upon it. If this be not the case, the directing serjeant (after being assured by the mounted officer that he himself is perfectly and squarely placed) will, by casting his eyes down the centre of his body, from the junction of his heels, take up and prolong a line perpendicular to himself and to the battalion; for this purpose he will observe and take up any accidental small point on the ground within 100 or 150 paces. Intermediate ones cannot be wanting, and their renewal is easy, as he successively approaches them in his march.

4. These preparatory arrangements being made, the mounted officer will give the word "*Steady*," as a signal that the line of direction is determined.

5. When the battalion advances, the serjeant-major will remain steady in the rear of the line, for 20 or 30 paces, to ascertain, under the directions of the mounted officer, the squareness and correctness of the line of march. If no waving or crowding in the line appear, the direction is certainly true, and the serjeant-major will then follow in the rear, covering as before.

6. The mounted officer will occasionally superintend the whole, but so long as these three points cover directly on the distant visible object, or on the intermediate ones, taken up successively by the

Digitized by Google

directing serjeant in his own person, the correct squareness of the battalion may be depended upon.

To pass obstacles when marching in line.

7. To march in line is generally adopted where the country is open, but in certain cases, where partial obstacles may offer, they can be avoided, by filing to the right or left, and then right or left wheel to follow the formed flank of the line. The formation in this manner will increase as the obstacle increases; but as it diminishes the files will successively form up, until the whole are again in line. Where the obstacles are of small extent, but frequently occurring, this mode is the most ready that can be applied in either advancing or retiring. Where they are greater in extent, an entire column formation should be adopted.

Retiring.

8. In marching to the *rear* the battalion must cover its proper extent of ground. The rear-rank men must avoid closing their files more than usual, otherwise the front men, who are in general larger, will be crowded in their ranks: music, drums, supernumerary officers, &c., will take care to march with exactness, not to interrupt, but rather to assist the battalion. The battalion is not to *face about*, till everything is prepared for its instant *march*; therefore it never unnecessarily stands faced to the rear.

Sec. 4. Wheeling.

On a halted pivot.

1. Wheels are made on a halted pivot from line into column, and from column into line.

On a movable pivot.

2. The principle of the movable pivot must always be applied to the wheel of divisions marching in column. And in column of route and manœuvre when at less than full distance, the new direction should be taken at an angle, so obtuse with the former line of march as not to require more than a wheel of one-eighth (for half distance) and one-sixteenth (for quarter distance) of the circle; otherwise the arc of the circle to be wheeled would so much exceed the distance between divisions, that crowding must be the consequence. If the change of direction in such columns is to be made at an angle more acute than the above proportions, or at a right angle with the line of march, it must be performed gradually,—the word

Digitized by Google

"*Forward*" being always given when the wheel of the above-named extent has been completed; and then the wheel to be repeated, if necessary, when a few paces more advanced. And if the leaders of each division follow, with scrupulous attention, the changes of direction of the division in their front—giving the word "*Right* (*or Left*) *Shoulders forward*" at the same spot, and then "*Forward*" at the moment when the division is square with the one preceding, the distances, and the whole regularity of the march, will be preserved. It may be observed, however, that a column of very small divisions may follow and conform to the windings and turnings of the head, without repeating the word *Shoulders forward*, which should be given by the head division upon all occasions.

3. When divisions at full distance make successive wheels of the quarter circle into a new alignment, the leading division will receive the word *Forward* the very moment the quarter circle is completed; by which time the succeeding division (having received the word *Shoulders forward* on reaching the wheeling point) will have wheeled so many paces as the arc of the quarter circle exceeds the radius, (or distances between divisions,) being in the proportion of 11 to 7: then the pivot file of the succeeding division, moving round the point, will occupy the identical spot from which the pivot of the preceding division had moved *forward:* thus the wheeling angle is in succession left clear, and division after division leads out in the new direction at regular distances.

Wheels of divisions may be made forward or backward.

4. Wheels of divisions in progressive movement are made forward, but particular occasions require that they should be made BACKWARD, which is done by facing the men about and wheeling on the pivot flank. When this is the case, the command will be

How performed.

FORM OPEN COLUMN, RIGHT (or left) IN FRONT; upon which the pivot men face as required, and the divisions are FACED TO THE RIGHT ABOUT—RIGHT (or left) WHEEL; and are *halted* and *fronted* by the leaders of each when the wheel is performed.

Digitized by Google

5. If the divisions of a battalion are kept equalized (which they ought always to be for the purposes of manœuvre), they may wheel in succession upon the reverse as well as the pivot flank, without deranging the line of covering; but where divisions happen to be unequal, and that they are to wheel successively on the reverse flank, a strong division must wheel on a point short of the preceding one, by the space of as many files as the strength of the latter is exceeded, and a weak division must overpass the wheeling point of its preceding stronger one, by the space of as many files as it is deficient.

Necessary recollections.

6. It appears that the number of paces of 30 inches, comprised in the front of any division or body, is nearly 3-4ths of the number of files of which it is composed; and that the number of files being once ascertained in each division, the officer commanding it must on all occasions recollect the number of paces that are equal to his front.

7. The field officers and adjutants must always recollect the number of paces the front of the battalion and its divisions occupy, in order to take up ground exactly in all formations.

Sec. 5. Movements.

1. Every movement must be divided into its distinct parts, and each part executed by its cautionary and executive words of command.

Table of the Number of Paces corresponding to a given Number of Files.

Number of Files in a Division, each occupying 21 Inches.	5	10	12	14	15	16	18	20	30	40	50	100
Front of Divisions in Paces of 30 Inches.	Paces. Inches. 3 15	7	8 12	9 24	10 15	11 6	12 18	14	21	28	35	70

Digitized by Google

2. The exercise of small bodies, when within the command of one voice, appears more showy from the effect produced by keeping such bodies constantly in motion, and by changing from one manœuvre to another while on the march. But such movements, and the formations made from them, must be on accidental points, unless mounted officers are very alert; and however brilliant and effective in battalion practice, they can only be considered as occasional exceptions not applicable to large bodies, where hurry must be avoided, and where concert and relative position are indispensable. It is at the same time most essential that commanding officers should not linger between their movements; to avoid which the caution for the succeeding movement may be given previous to the halt, which will afford the field officers and adjutants time to direct the points for formation. In moving to form upon any part of a battalion or brigade, the part or parts to be formed upon may alone be halted—the other divisions continuing the march.

Sec. 6. The Alignment.

1. To march in an ALIGNMENT is to make troops march in any straight line which joins two given points,—or to form upon any such given line.

2. In formations of defence the lines occupied may be curved, and following the advantages of the ground, but in those of attack the lines must be straight, otherwise the troops in advancing must inevitably fall into confusion.

3. When troops are to form in a straight line, two necessary points in it must always be previously ascertained. One the point of APPUI at which one flank of the body, whether small or great, is to be placed, and the other the distant point of formation or dressing on which the front of the body is directed.

4. When battalions, or divisions of a battalion, come up successively into line, the outward flank of the last formed and halted body is always considered as the point of APPUI or support of the succeeding one. The look and alignment of the soldier in

Digitized by Google

forming is always towards the point of appui, and the correction of dressing is always from that point towards the opposite hand. This great principle is to be observed, from the smallest body to the most considerable corps.

Attention required from the leading officer.

5. The officer who commands the division which leads a column in any given alignment must move upon an object without regarding his division, so that his shoulder shall just graze the head of any mounted officer's horse posted at an intermediate point, (or the shoulder of any man on foot placed for the same purpose,) and which he must invariably preserve in a straight line with the distant points. All the following officers must maintain their exact distance from the company preceding, covering the pivots in their own persons. Should any of the companies neglect their covering, those that succeed them must rectify the fault, and exactly touch whatever intermediate points may be placed to mark an alignment.

6. In whatever manner the leading division of a battalion arrives in a straight alignment in which it is to form, a mounted officer gives the point where it enters; and when arrived on the ground and halted previous to formation, a field officer corrects, if necessary, from that division, the pivot files on the fixed distant points before the line is formed.

Sec. 7. Points of Formation.

1. When a single battalion takes up a new position, it may not seem material whether a flank is accurately placed upon a given point, or whether a line is exactly formed in a certain direction. But when it forms a part of a more considerable body, all its positions are relative to other battalions; and if the formations on flank points are not accurate and just, false directions and distances will be given to a whole line. It is apparent, therefore, that every single battalion should be accustomed to make its changes of position and formations on its own fixed flank-points; and commanding officers should always hold this object in view, and instruct their adjutants and others accordingly.

Digitized by Google

Relative connexions of battalion points with general formations.

2. The line on which troops move, or are successively to form, may be taken up to any extent by the prolongation of an original short base, given in the direction which the commander of a line will point out, according to his own views. This given base will serve to correct the position of the different persons who successively, as their separate corps or divisions require it, prolong the alignment from the several points already established. In general, therefore, the point where a formation, or entry, into an alignment is to be made, being marked by a fixed person, the commander will place a second thirty or forty paces without the first, exactly in the direction which he determines to give to his new alignment. These two persons will mark a base, which, by adjutants or others successively aligning themselves on the two first placed points and on each other, may be prolonged to any required length, at the same time that the commander fixes for himself a distant point upon which to correct them, and which, whether in battalion or brigade, is indispensable.

Prolongers of alignments.

3. When the persons who prolong a line are on horseback, the head of the horse of each standing perpendicular to, and facing that line, is the object; and when they dismount, (which should always be done when the steadiness of the horse cannot be depended upon,) they should cover, holding the horse by the outer hand, and the inner shoulder, which is in a line with the horse, will be grazed in passing by the flanks of a column in march. All other men, who may be posted on foot at points for a column to march upon, will be placed in a similar manner. Although the leader of the first division of a column will march on the persons placed in the line, yet if the direction happens to be on some remarkable object, it should be fixed upon as the general point of correction. When columns move in prolongation to the front, two points will be given in front of the pivot flank of the leading division; and when they move by the flank march of divisions, two points will also be given for the flank march of the regulating division.

Digitized by Google

Battalion points.

4. Where two points are to be given in a certain direction, towards an outer flank, the inner one should be first determined, and the outer one is immediately and easily taken over the inner point, and the flank one of correction. When formations are on a central division, points of correction will be taken on both flanks.

Covering serjeants.

5. A serjeant will be placed, upon *all occasions* of formation of lines, in front of each flank file of the company named as the base, facing to the point of appui: and a covering serjeant will run out from each company as it arrives within twenty paces of the point of formation, and will cover at the distance of the division in the line established by the serjeants in front of the base, who will remain steady until the third company from them receives the words *Eyes front*, when they will pass to the rear. The covering serjeant of the next company will also remain steady until the third company from him receives the words *Eyes front*, and so on until the line is formed. In this manner each covering serjeant will have two points to cover upon; and each division will also have two points upon which it will be brought parallel to the general line, and independent of the divisions already formed; and if the points are well taken up, and the divisions properly conducted, little dressing will be necessary.

Points to be always kept clear.

6. It is most essential that those serjeants, who are so many intermediate points, connecting the flank of appui with the outer flank point of the battalion, should be always kept clear for the view of division officers. Divisions must therefore "*dress up*" to them *upon all occasions*.

Base points.

7. Whenever a company is named as the base of a formation, two serjeants belonging to it will immediately spring out and give the base for the covering points. When formations are made upon the centre, the intermediate points of each wing will cover the central base; and upon change of front on the colours, one of the supernumerary serjeants of the centre will place himself in the new front before the colours, and the covering serjeants

Digitized by Google

of the two centre companies will change places and cover him, the coverers of each wing aligning on them as before.

Covering serjeants in change of position by the open column.

8. When a line changes its front in any direction by means of the open column, a covering serjeant from each division will always run out twenty paces before the division reaches the new alignment to mark its distance: and he will cover at the proper pivot flank upon the point of formation.

9. When formations to line or changes of position are made by sub-divisions or sections, the covering serjeants of companies are sufficient to take up points.

Corrections upon flank pivots.

10. The covering of serjeants, whether in line or column, will always be corrected by the field officers from the flanks, or from the base of formation, upon the flank point of the battalion.

Duties of mounted officers.

11. It is the particular duty of the field officers to establish the points necessary for the movements and formations of the battalion, assisted, in the exercise of it, by the adjutant, who will mark the distant point of his battalion.

12. All mounted officers, whether staff or regimental, ought to have a good seat and a good hand on horseback. Their horses should be well managed, so as to be thrown into a canter at once, to take up ground, either for the depth of a corps in column, or for its extent in line; and every officer should accurately possess himself of the rate at which his horse may canter, so as to calculate how many strokes of a full canter bear a proportion to the space occupied by files of infantry at 21 inches from each other. The rate at which horses canter is so variable, as to render it impossible to establish any accurate table of calculation on this head; and therefore it must rest with each individual officer to ascertain the paces of his horse, and thus to take up distances with precision.

Sec. 8. Dressing.

1. When the leaders of companies dress their divisions, the duty must be performed without noise

Digitized by Google

or bawling to the men, which has an unsteady and unmilitary appearance. If it be necessary to call any particular men to dress up or back, the caution must be given in such a low tone as to be heard only by the company.

General attention to dressing in all formations.

2. The officer in dressing is placed on that flank of his division to which the men's eyes are turned on the word *Dress*, and from the second file from the flank of the company towards which his wheeling flank moves from column, or his inward flank from echellon, he makes his corrections on his intermediate point.

Closing to correct distances.

3. When distances have been lost, and it is necessary to close by the side step to regain them, such closing will always be made, either to, or from the centre, which is the point of *appui:* the dressing will therefore be made from centre to flanks: and officers commanding companies of the right wing will place themselves, to give the word and time, in front of their left flanks, and those of the left wing in front of the right flanks. When officers change from one flank to the other in order to close, they will pass by the front, and repass by the rear of their companies. On all other occasions, when it is necessary to change their flanks in line, they will pass and repass by the rear.

Dressing a battalion after an advance in line.

4. In dressing a battalion after a halt, the commander will order POINTS TO THE FRONT, upon which the regimental colour, the captain of the right centre company, and the officer on the left of the line, will step forward any given number of paces, facing to the left, and will be immediately aligned by a field officer from the left. On the word STEADY, the captains of the other companies will move briskly to the front and cover to the left, on the points which have been prepared. The commander then gives the word BATTALION, RIGHT FORWARD DRESS, QUICK MARCH, when the officers of companies *Halt Dress* their respective companies, resuming their proper places on the word STEADY from the commanding officer. In brigade, officers, in taking up a line of dressing, face towards the battalion of formation.

Digitized by Google

Sec. 9. Open Column.

Formation of column.

1. Columns are formed from line for the convenience of movement, and for the purpose of again extending into line. Every column of march or manœuvre must be formed by a regular succession of the divisions from right to left of the line, or of such of its parts as compose the column; for whatever is the relative position of a body in line, such ought it to be in column; and where several connected columns are formed, the same flanks of each should be in front; but, whether the right or left, will depend on circumstances.

Column of march and manœuvre.

2. Columns of march or manœuvre will generally be composed of companies, sub-divisions or sections. An open column occupies the same extent of ground as when in line, minus the front of its leading division; and its chief objects are facility of movement, the quick formation of the line to the flank, and the change of situation in the shortest lines from one position to another. It is named the column of march or ROUTE, when applied to common marches, where the attention of men and officers is less scrupulously demanded—and the column of MANŒUVRE, when being within reach of the enemy, or at exercise, the greatest exactness is required to insure its speedy formation at any instant into line during its movement from one position to another.

Central movements in double columns.

4. Double columns are formed upon the centre of battalions, brigades or lines, for the special purposes of attack, and, in certain cases, for the passage of defilés when presented in front of a centre. All such advances from the centre should be in double column, formed on the two centre sub-divisions of a battalion, or the two centre divisions of a brigade. It is obvious that, for the purposes of attack, a force can, by means of this formation, be more readily and sooner brought to bear upon a given object, than by advance of column from a flank. In the latter movement the divisions have the diameter, in the former only the radius of the circle to traverse: it follows, therefore, that the

Digitized by Google

same force is formed from the centre in one-half the time that it can be done from a flank. But, in battalion movements, the consideration of these advantages must not prevent the equal practice of advances in column from a flank; for when the central movement is applied to a brigade, the formation from the centre for the whole becomes totally a flank movement for the battalions on the flanks. Thus battalions should equally practise flank movements in column to the front or rear, in order to perform with readiness the part that may be required of them in the central movements of larger bodies.

Application of columns from a flank.

5. Columns formed on a flank are equally applicable with central columns to purposes of attack, and the employment of the one in preference to the other must necessarily depend on ground and circumstances, and can only be determined by the commander on the spot; but for the passage of defilés, the movement in single column from a flank is preferable to that in double column from the centre, particularly where the defilé happens so to present itself in front, as to be unfavourable to a direct debouché from the centre. Where this is the case, a battalion or brigade may be conducted to it with much greater facility in single column from a flank; and the front of the column, in the latter movement, can always be diminished to the smallest degree of reduction, according to the width of the defilé; whereas objections may be offered to the general application of a debouché in double column from the centre *for the passage of defilés*, inasmuch as it is not susceptible of a similar reduction of front without being liable to the confusion which may arise in narrow and difficult passes, from the probable mixture of files, if diminished to less than double sections; but where the debouché can be made in a direct line from the centre, and where the defilé affords room for the double column formation, these objections do not exist. It may be laid down as a principle, therefore, that the passage of a defilé should generally be effected by the march of a single column from a flank; and that

Digitized by Google

the body which is opposite to the defilé is the first to cross in advancing, and the last to move in retreating.

Changes of position, or the front of lines, by the open column.

6. Changes in the position, or the front of lines, may be made by means of the open column, where the difficulty of the ground does not favour a movement in echellon; or where the necessity for the latter march is not called for by the immediate presence of an enemy; such changes of position are effected to the front or rear of a flank division, or upon the centre division of a battalion formed in line, by all the remaining divisions facing and disengaging their heads towards the point of formation, and filing to their respective distances in open column, as taken up by covering serjeants: or divisions may move by SECTIONS OF THREES, SHOULDERS FORWARD, and proceed as above directed.

7. All changes of position, by means of the open column, will be effected by the formation of a column right or left in front, on the named division. If on a flank division, the caution will specify whether the other flank is to be thrown back or forward: if on a central division, the caution will in like manner specify which wing is to be thrown forward.

8. An open column may effect a change of position upon its front, rear, or any central division, by the named division wheeling up according to the front to which it is intended to change; and the other divisions facing, and filing into the new alignment.

Changes of position in column to the front, on the fixed or movable pivots.

9. In changes of position, by means of the open column from a flank to the front, the whole line, except the leading division, will previously wheel backwards or forwards by divisions into column: if the wheel is made backward, the flank division may stand fast until the column has marched up to it; and it then proceeds by command of its own leader; and the succeeding divisions will follow in column. But changes from line to the front, in open column may be made, by the flank division moving at the same time that the remaining divisions are thrown

Digitized by Google

into column by the inclination of the outer shoulders, and following the advanced division on the movable pivot, by which considerable time will be saved.

Posting of officers.

10. In column of manœuvre, the ordinary post of a commanding officer of a battalion is near the pivot flank of the leading division; that of the other field officers to be respectively near the flanks of the centre and rear, on the reverse flank.

In column of companies.

11. Each division of which a column is composed is conducted by a leader, placed on the pivot flank of the front rank, which is his general post: in a column of companies such leader is the captain or commander of the company. The lieutenant is to cover the second file from the reverse flank; the second and third subalterns in rear of the second and third sections; and the covering serjeant is to cover the second file from the pivot flank. Commanding officers will, however, use their discretion in directing the captains to fall to the rear, their places being taken by their senior subalterns: for in all field movements the superintendence of the captain will be found most useful, and it is only in the rear of his company that he can observe its movements and correct mistakes.

In column of sub-divisions.

12. In a column of sub-divisions the captain leads the head sub-division of his company, and his lieutenant the second. The second subaltern is to cover the second file from the reverse flank of the rear sub-division, and if there is a third subaltern, he will cover the second file from the reverse flank of the front sub-division.

In column of sections and threes.

13. In a column of sections, the captain leads the head section of his company; his lieutenant the third one; the second subaltern the fourth one; and when the establishment admits of a third subaltern, he will command the second section. In sections of *threes*, the captain is placed on the inner flank of the leading section—his covering serjeant leads the centre file—and the other officers and serjeants are formed in the rear or reverse flank, in the same order as when in line.

Digitized by Google

14. When any considerable continuation of the march is the object, and pivot officers are permitted to be in rear of their divisions, their flank posts must be occupied by non-commissioned officers, who remain answerable under their direction for the preservation of the proper distances.

Music, drummers.

15. In open column, music, drummers, &c., of battalions, wheel with and remain closed up to the rear of their respective divisions. In column at half or quarter distance, they may occasionally, if there is space, move on the reverse flank. Instead of being kept collected, they may in column of march be sent to their respective companies to remain in the rear of each; but they are on no occasion to lengthen out, or interfere with the movements in column, or to increase the intervals between battalions in column.

Marching in column.

16. It has already been observed, that all marches of battalions are made in column of companies, of sub-divisions, of sections, or of sections of threes: but it must be borne in mind, that the front of the column should never be reduced unnecessarily.

Counter-march by divisions.

17. Battalions must know how to perform the countermarch, but otherwise, both in exercise and in the real practice of troops in the field, they should be so prepared as to render it immaterial which rank is in front, and whether the right or left flank leads the column.

Colours.

18. All counter marches necessarily change the pivot flanks of columns. The colours cover the third, fourth and fifth files from the pivot, and must move steadily and together, when the line is to be formed or any other formation made, by word of command (given in a low tone of voice) from the officer who carries the king's colour.

Formation of line from open column.

19. When the column of companies halts to form, pivot flanks are in an instant corrected from the leading division by field officers of battalions. On the caution, officers move to the centre of their companies one pace from the front rank; their covering serjeants place themselves on the right of each if the wheel is to be to the left; or behind the

Digitized by Google

second file from the pivot if the wheel is to be to the right, and a serjeant of the leading company of the battalion runs up and places himself in the new alignment to mark where the wheeling flank of that company is to rest. Pivot men of the front rank square into the new direction, and the rear rank locks up to the front rank. The whole wheel up and halt. Officers dress their companies, and then, passing by the rear of their companies, if not already on the proper flank, replace their serjeants, who are now in the front rank. If any farther dressing is necessary, it must be ordered and made by a mounted field officer.

20. In general the whole of a battalion will be halted on its ground, stand in column, and have its pivots adjusted, before it wheels up and forms; but if necessary, and where parts of it arrive in the line in file, they may form successively as they come up. If part of a battalion should therefore be ordered to wheel into line, while the other divisions are not yet in it, the pivot men of those divisions (and not the officers) must cover on the formed part of the line before they wheel up. And when several battalion columns changing position enter separately, and are to form in the same line, each may be successively wheeled up, if so ordered or intended, when its adjoining one has three or four of its divisions standing in column on the line.

Disengaging heads of companies or divisions.

21. In many cases, as already explained, independent of the passage of lines, formation of close columns, &c., the companies or divisions of a battalion in line are ordered to face, and lead out to the front or rear, into column. An explanatory caution being given, the companies face to the point directed, and at the same instant the three leading files of each disengage by the side step, from the flank of the preceding company, bringing the shoulder forward. In this situation each leader is enabled, at the word QUICK MARCH, to move independently, without check, preserving his distance from whatever is the proper front of the column. In disengaging to the rear by threes from line, the

Digitized by Google

leading three of the company next to the one of formation must wheel upon its centre file.

Column of march or route.

22. The rear division of a battalion, or more considerable column, either of march or manœuvre, will constantly follow every turning which the head may make; each successively changing its direction at the same point with the leading division: and, although in route marching the files of a division may be permitted to loosen, and move with freedom, yet the pivot files must carefully preserve their place and distances *at all times*, under the constant superintendence of an officer of each division; in long marches officers and pivot files may be frequently relieved in these essential attentions. Preparatory to any relaxation in route marching, the words MARCH AT EASE should be given, when the soldiers may be allowed to open their files, carry their arms as they please, and converse. The officers may march likewise at ease, and, with the exception of the officer charged with the superintendence of the pivot files, they will be found most useful in rear of their companies. At the word ATTENTION, files are closed, the step taken up, silence preserved, and arms sloped. In this restored order all alterations of front, formations, &c., should be executed. When it is probable that a column of march may be required to form to a flank, it will move at open distance, and when ordered to HALT, and FORM in line, the pivot men of companies must remain steady where they are found at the word HALT; and the companies or divisions will wheel up into line such as the ground will admit of. When the march is again to be resumed, the line breaks into column, and the rear divisions at their ordered distances will continue to follow the exact path traced out by the leading flank; the following divisions of a column must never deviate from this rule, or endeavour of themselves to get into a straight line, when the general direction is a winding one, until an express order is given for that purpose; which can hardly ever be the case until the head of the column is halted, with a determination to form the line in a straight direction. When the necessity

Digitized by Google

of forming to a flank is not likely to occur, the column of march will be at quarter distance. But the above attentions from the pivot files and division officers are still essential. In route marching nothing is so important as the careful preservation of distances, and the avoiding of the slightest check; for a check that is scarcely perceptible at the head of a column will cause a most serious interruption in the rear. The utmost attention, therefore, of every officer will be directed to these points; and to the passage of obstacles of every description with the largest possible front; and to the prevention of all unnecessary defiling, as it tends not only to lengthen out the column, but to interrupt its progress, and to harass the troops.

Diminishing or increasing the front of a column.

23. In movement this operation is either done by each company successively, when it arrives at the point where the leading one of the column performed it, or else by the whole companies of the battalion, at the same moment, by command of the commanding officer. In the latter case, at the instant the battalion should begin to reduce or increase its front, the commander gives the general caution and command to that effect: if by companies successively, the commander of the battalion gives the caution to the leading division only, or if an obstacle presents itself unexpectedly, the commander of the leading division will proceed to diminish the front, without waiting for the direction of the commanding officer. The leaders of companies give their words of execution, on reaching the obstacle, to the pivot sub-divisions or sections to double in rear of the reverse sub-divisions, which never alter the pace at which the column was marching, but proceed as if they were totally unconnected with the operation that the others are performing.

Obstacles in march of columns.

24. Should the march of a column, whether in a straight alignment or otherwise, be at any time interrupted by pools of water, or any other obstacle which is impassable, the march will be continued direct to that obstacle, which will be passed by diverging on all occasions, when practicable, to the

Digitized by Google

reverse flank, so as to remain behind the line of pivots, and the alignment will again on the other side be taken up by the pivots, at a point prepared by a mounted officer. Allowance will be made, when the line is to form, for the breadth of such obstacle, by doubling as many divisions as will fill up the vacancy which has been so occasioned. Small interruptions must never, if possible, cause the pivots to deviate from the straight line, when the intention of forming upon it is perfectly understood.

Sec. 10. Column at Quarter Distance, and Close Column.

Formation.

1. The column at quarter distance is formed either by closing from open distance, when it is intended to march upon the same alignment on which the open column had been formed, or by the march of companies or divisions to a flank, from line, when it is intended to form in rear of the right or left division of a battalion. This column is to be conducted upon an alignment, and upon all changes of direction, according to the principles which guide the movement of the open column. When close columns are formed, the companies or divisions must be at *one* pace distance, measuring from the heels of the rear rank to the heels of the front rank; and these distances must always be taken up by the covering serjeants, who will for that purpose run out twenty paces before the leading flank of divisions shall reach the alignment; if the distance is to be taken up from the rear, he will cover the formed flank, and then go to the right about.

Distance of divisions in close columns.

2. The column at quarter distance is equally applicable to most of the changes of position, and formations of open column, except the formation of line to a flank, or in changes of position where line is to be formed to a new front; and in all route marches, and marches of manœuvre to any considerable extent, the quarter distance should be adopted.

Digitized by Google

Advantages of quarter distance.

3. Quarter distance unites the convenience of moving upon a space three-fourths less than the extent occupied by the march of an open column, with the capability of moving and forming in any manner (as detailed in the column evolutions) that may be required to resist attack: and the compact formation at quarter distance has, moreover, the advantage of averting the evils which attend the loss of distance in open column, from the irregularity of ground or other causes; for, even if intervals are lost on the march at quarter distance, the unity and strength of the column are not impaired, unless that loss exceeds the extent of the front of the division, which can rarely happen without marked and culpable inattention of the company or division leaders.

Applicable to all close column movements.

4. The column at quarter distance also partakes of all the properties, and is capable of all the formations and deployments applied to close column; but the latter will in general be found to be best adapted to the wheel of columns for change of front (which are performed in more compact order at close distance) for the assembly in mass of a number of troops in a small space, or to limit the space occupied by the march of a column, and for compactness in deployments. The wheel of a column at quarter distance may however be performed, as hereafter explained, under every circumstance, if deemed necessary.

Wheel of quarter distance or close column.

5. Much advantage attends the wheel of a column at quarter or close distance: it prepares a column for deployment on a change of front to a flank; forms contiguous columns into a column in mass facing to a flank, and a mass into contiguous columns; and changes the front of a close column by the wheel and countermarch of sub-divisions round the centre; so that a battalion column that is to take its place in a mass of contiguous columns may thus change its front on its own ground, to correspond with the head of the line of columns. Battalions must, therefore, be well practised in these wheels; and in order to perform them without crowding at the inner flank, the officer or inward

Officers the pivots.

Digitized by Google

file, whether officer or man, must be the pivot upon which the wheel is made, and thus the whole column wheels as a division under the direction of the commanding officer. The leading division acts as a moving base for the rear companies to follow; its length of step is regulated according to the depth of the column, and when at quarter distance must be very short, to enable the rear to circle simultaneously round at the usual pace. During the wheel a field officer will superintend the diagonal line of covering of the leading flanks of divisions, so that the column may at any moment during the wheel be halted and deployed, or turned to the front by the word FORWARD, as circumstances may require.

Rear divisions half face to the reverse flank.

6. In order also to avoid crowding in the wheel of close column, it is necessary that, upon the wheel being ordered, all the rear divisions make a half face to the wheeling flank, each file, on the word *March*, and during the wheel, taking care to cover the one in front; by which the component parts of the column will be rendered flexible, and freedom will be given to the files to move in the course of their respective circles, without pressing inwards upon each other and upon the inward flank.

Special attentions to the wheel of a battalion at quarter distance.

7. In the same manner the rear divisions will make a half face to the wheeling flank, when the wheel is made at quarter distance. But in order to preserve the quarter distance accurately, the leading division will advance six paces on the word *quick* or *double* march, and will wheel round the pivot file at a shortened pace, while each succeeding division will advance in circling round to quarter distance, which will leave room for the rear divisions to circle into their relative positions at that distance. Thus in all such wheels at quarter distance, the battalion must gain six paces to the front. In wheeling on the movable pivot the rear division make a *half turn* towards the shoulder brought forward, and the front division wheels and advances at a shortened pace in the new direction, the rear division circling round.

Posting of officers.

8. In column at quarter distance, officers are posted as laid down in the open column formation.

Digitized by Google

But in close column the supernumeraries will form on the reverse flanks of companies; and when the column marches to a flank, they will face and move with their companies: when the close column is to countermarch, they will remain on the reverse flank, and face with their companies; but instead of countermarching with them, they will countermarch on their own ground. When officers change their flanks in column, halted, they will pass by the front of their divisions, their covering serjeants by the rear.

Deployment.

9. The column (close or at quarter distance) will always form in the alignment of its front division, by the deployment or flank march in file or by sections of threes, by which it successively uncovers and extends its divisions into line; by their *Front* turn if in file, or if in threes, by the shoulders forward, towards the division on which the formation is made. The supernumeraries will move with the deployment, and halt with their respective companies.

Upon a Rear Division.

10. When a column deploys on a rear division, the named division, when uncovered, will move up to the front, which its covering serjeants will mark: the points therefore necessary, for the formation of the battalion, will be taken in prolongation of these points; and the divisions which successively move up, must *Halt, front*, until their front is clear.

Attention to the deployment.

11. The flank march will be made parallel to the general line. The field officers of the battalion will superintend its execution, and whenever a division is uncovered and fronted, the covering serjeant will run out to mark the distance for the front of his division in the line, each leader bringing up and halting his division in the line, and dressing from the flank of appui on the serjeant and battalion point. If the company is brought up at the *double march*, it will be halted two full paces in rear of the line, in order that it may neither press upon nor overshoot the points; and the officer, without unnecessary pause, will give the word *Dress up* from the flank or appui.

Digitized by Google

12. The close column and deployment in file is the simplest and most natural mode of deploying into line, and is the least subject to derangement from casualities or any other cause. In this, as in every other kind of formation in line, regularity and expedition must be combined. The heads of divisions, filing to right or left, must step freely out. The apprehension of the files separating must not lead to the error of checking the head. The division commander must be well acquainted with the distance required for his division, and not judge of it by the space which it occupies in march. The men must be accustomed, as soon as they have faced towards the alignment, to touch lightly, without crowding or pushing. If a column, right in front, is forced by circumstances of ground to deploy to the right, this is performed in the same manner as when a column left in front deploys: the inverted order of divisions in line resulting from it, must never be taken into consideration. The same case occurs when a column left in front deploys to the left.

Sec. 11. Echellon.

Utility in changes of position.

1. The echellon position and movements are not only necessary and applicable to the immediate attacks and retreat of great bodies, but also to the oblique or direct changes of situation, which a battalion, or a more considerable corps already formed in line, may be obliged to make to the front or rear, or on a particular fixed division of the line.

How formed.

2. The oblique changes are produced by the wheel (less than the quarter circle) of divisions, which places them in the echellon situation. The direct changes are produced by the perpendicular and successive march of divisions from line to front or rear.

3. The march in line, or in the direct echellon, produces new parallel positions to front or rear. The march in echellon, when formed by the wheel of the divisions from the line, produces new oblique positions to front or rear, according to the degree

Digitized by Google

of wheel given to the echellon. The march in open column produces new prolonged positions to either flank.

Formed by the wheel of companies.

4. The echellon of march in oblique changes of position will be composed of companies or subdivisions; and will generally be formed from line by the wheel of each on its own flank, to the hand to which it is to move. Such wheel will seldom exceed the eighth of the circle, but can never amount to the quarter circle, otherwise the corps would stand in open column.

Properties of the direct echellon.

5. A direct echellon is formed for the purposes of advancing or refusing a flank; and the distances between its divisions will be guided by circumstances. A line parallel to that from which it moved, can only be resumed by the successive formation of its divisions upon one of its halted parts; and an oblique line cannot be accurately formed by the wheel of divisions from a direct echellon otherwise than by taking up distances of the preceding divisions from the leading flank of the echellon and a point placed beyond it.

Of the wheeled echellon.

6. The wheeled echellon possesses the double property of gaining ground to a flank in an oblique direction, and at the same time of affording a ready and immediate formation of an accurate line in an advanced position, parallel to that which it quitted, by the wheel backwards of divisions on its echellon flanks.

Distinctions between open column and echellon.

7. All the divisions of an open column march upon one and the same perpendicular, and are therefore easily conducted. All the divisions of a wheeled echellon move on different perpendiculars, each on its own, but all of them parallel to the directing one, and removed from each other a space equal to what the divisions cut within each other.—In open column the perpendicular distance from division to division is equal to the front of the following one.—In echellon the smaller the wheel is, the smaller is the perpendicular distance from division to division; but in all situations of the wheeled echellon, the oblique distance from flank to flank is

Digitized by Google

equal to the front of the preceding division.—In open order the proper pivot flank is the directing one, and the wheels are made on it into column backward and into line forward. In echellon the inner flank (or that which first joins its preceding division when the line is to be formed forward) is the directing one, and in oblique echellon the wheels are made on it, into echellon forward, and into line backward.—In open column, each division preserves a distance from flank to flank equal to its own front.—In echellon each preserves a distance from flank to flank equal to the front of its preceding division; and it may at any time be converted into the open column, by wheeling up its divisions till they stand perpendicular to the line which passes through all its directing flanks. An open column may in the same manner be converted into the echellon column, by wheeling back its divisions, each a named number of paces, and on either flank, according to circumstances.

Method of formation.

8. The wheel from line into open column is easily ascertained by the perpendicular halt of each division on that line; but the parallelism of the wheels into echellon is more difficult to be determined; for being confined to no certain portion of the circle, it cannot well be announced or executed as a direction; and therefore *a given number of paces to be wheeled by bodies of equal strength*, and which serve as so many parallel bases of formation, may be the best general order that can be given.

9. Should the companies of a battalion or more considerable body be all of equal strength, and should the outward man of each take the same number of paces on the circumference of the circle, they would, after the wheel, stand parallel among themselves, but if those companies be unequal, they would then not be parallel to each other, and consequently not in a proper relative situation. Though such equality may be found in a single battalion, it will seldom exist in a line of battalions, and a different calculation and direction for each battalion, in proportion to its strength, would be necessary in every general change of position. This difficulty may be

Digitized by Google

obviated by adopting a *practical rule* for the battalion and line, on all occasions of wheeling by companies into echellon in order to change position, and of whatever strength the companies may be; *viz. That each covering serjeant, as the case requires, having previously placed himself before or behind a given file (the 8th) from the standing flank, shall take the named number of paces from the centre of that file on the arc of the circle, and thereby become a direction for the company to wheel up to, and halt.* As eight paces from the eighth file complete the quarter circle, so four paces give the *one-eighth*, and two paces the *one-sixteenth* of the circle, all of which are wheels often made from open column, or from line, to change to a position perpendicular, or oblique, to the one quitted; and these degrees with the aids given by advancing or keeping back a shoulder as may be necessary, during the movement, will effect a formation in any new direction with precision. All changes of front, by the echellon march, are performed by the *forming* division wheeling half the angle wheeled by the division *to be formed upon.*

General attentions of directing files.

10. The flank directing files of echellons, whether they are formed by the perpendicular march of divisions successively from line to the front, or by the wheel of divisions from line to the flank, should form, and preserve a diagonal line with respect to the front of divisions. In the first cases the distance from flank to flank depends on the interval at which the divisions are ordered to march off:—in the second case, such distance is always the same and equal to the front of the division which has wheeled forward, and which, by wheeling back, would exactly fill it up. Whenever, therefore, the directing flanks of an echellon are all in the same line, and each distant from its preceding one a space equal to the front of the preceding division, such echellon is in a situation, by wheeling back, to form in line to the flank, or to take a position to the front. In all changes of position by echellon, whether direct or oblique, the leaders of companies will invariably be on that flank towards which the change of position is to be made. But in taking ground to a flank, on

Digitized by Google

the march, in echellon of sub-divisions or sections, companies' leaders remain in their proper places when in line.

Passing obstacles.

11. In the echellon march, such division or divisions as may meet with obstacles, will file round them without deranging the adjoining divisions, which preserve the necessary vacant spaces and distances till the broken divisions can again take their places.

Changes to the rear in echellon.

12 When a change of position or march to the rear is to be made in echellon, the battalion or line will in general *face* about, wheel into echellon, and then proceed.

Directing points.

13. But the march in echellon (more particularly that to a flank) can never be performed well unless the officer of the leading echellon shall have correct points to move upon. In the direct march the relative distance of divisions is easily preserved—but in the diagonal movement the utmost care and exactness are necessary.

Attention of Companies' Leaders.

14. During the march the same great regulating principles that direct the open column direct the echellon; viz., the preservation of distance from the preceding leading flank, and the diagonal lining or covering of all those flanks, at the same time that the perpendiculars of march are preserved by each division. Could the march in echellon be always executed with the greatest accuracy, each flank leader covering a certain file of his preceding division, at a certain distance, would ensure exactness: but this alone is not to be trusted to, and is rather to be considered as an aid than as an invariable rule; for the unsteady or open march of one or more divisions, if productive of a waving or shifting of the following ones, would in a sensible manner influence the whole. If the leaders of the head divisions do preserve an equal and steady pace under the direction of the commanding officer, who keeps close to the flank of the first one, and gives such directions to the second as are necessary for preserving the parallelism of the march, those two will serve as a base line on which all the others should

Superintendence of Commanding Officers.

Digitized by Google

cover. In this, as in every other case, the perfect perpendicular march of the first leader, in consequence of his body being truly placed, and his attention solely given to this object, is what will much determine the precision and justness of the whole.

Change of position.

15. Each change of position of the battalion or line may be considered as a general wheel of the whole made on a *point*, either *in*, *before*, or *behind*, the old line. The battalion or line therefore breaks to whichever hand, and to whichever division, it manœuvres to, or is led by:—when to a flank, generally to that which is nearest to, and is first to enter any part of the new position. When a central division determines its movement it breaks to right or left inwards, and faces each division, which makes its change of position on its own ground. When this *point* is *in* the old line, it must necessarily be within the battalion when single, or within a certain named battalion of a line: such battalion therefore will have to perform the change on a *fixed* point within itself; viz., on such division, flank or central, as is already rested on that point, by making its other divisions, either by *flank* or *diagonal* marching, enter into the line; but all the other battalions will have the double operation of moving up to the new line, and then forming upon it. When this *point* is *before* or *behind* the whole line, every battalion, whether single or connected, will have this double operation to perform.

Advantages of echellon in changes of position.

16. The echellon changes of position are the safest that can be employed in the presence of and near to an enemy; they are almost equal in security to the march of the line in front, or to an uniform wheel in the line, which is not to be attempted; they can be used in the most critical situations, where the filings and movements of the open column could not be risked; they are more particularly employed when the enemy's flank is to be taken by throwing the body forward, or when one's own is to be covered by throwing it backward. They have the advantage of preserving a general front during the march, and of affording a sufficient freedom of movement, which in such situation is indispensable; they effect

Digitized by Google

a change of position on any division of the line, either on a fixed or moving point; and at any instant the movement can be stopped, the line formed, and a sudden attack repulsed.

17. Upon the principle of mathematical precision laid down in No. 9 of this Section, all echellon formations should, *strictly speaking*, be made by the previous wheel of divisions into echellon, upon a halted pivot, in order that the leading flanks may stand precisely perpendicular to the direction in which they are to form. *This is the general rule:* —But as expedition is the first object, when it is easily attainable without risking confusion, in battalion practice, when not liable to be attacked during the formation, the bringing forward of the shoulders may be adopted on special occasions, the commanding officer taking care to give the word *Forward*, at the very moment when the leading flanks are in a perpendicular direction to the point of appui in the new line.

Degrees of march.

18. The march in echellon will be, generally, in quick time, as changes of position in echellon are always supposed to be near an enemy, where the utmost regularity and constant opportunity to form line must be preserved—it would not therefore be prudent to attempt greater celerity than quick time.

Double march.

19. Rapid formations to line, however, from column or square upon any fixed part of a battalion, when made by the echellon movements of subdivisions or sections, may be performed at the double march: or in echellon changes of position, when two or three divisions remain to be formed on the flank, they may complete the formation at the double march.

20. In all echellon formations it is important that commanding officers should accustom the divisions in echellon to wheel back into line during the formation, when a part of the new line is formed, to ascertain that the divisions have maintained their relative positions, and that they are prepared to show a front at any moment, if attacked during the movement. Thus, with one wing formed in the new line,

Digitized by Google

the other wing, by wheeling back, should present another line at an angle (according to the degree of wheel) with it.

21. Battalions will be practised in forming line, by echellon, to either flank; for although, generally, when practicable, it may be expedient to avoid the inversion of the companies of a battalion, cases do occur in the field when a formation to the reverse flank is the only one which the ground and circumstances will sanction. When this inversion takes place, companies will consider their proper situation in line or column to be that which they then occupy, and will be prepared to act accordingly; the senior subalterns of companies in the rear telling off from right to left after every such inversion. It should be a matter of indifference to a well-drilled corps, whether the grenadiers are on the right or left of the line.

Sec. 12. Squares.

1. Squares are formed either from line, or from column at full, half, or quarter distance. (*Vide* Sect. 6, Part II.)

Hollow square, four deep.

2. The hollow square, four deep, is sufficiently solid to oppose an attack of cavalry: it possesses, at the same time, the advantage of rendering the fire of all the men available to the resistance of the enemy.

Solid squares.

3. The solid squares should seldom be adopted, because a proportion of the men cannot give their fire: close columns should, in all cases when practicable, and time will admit, open therefore to quarter distance, and form square as laid down in Sect. 6, No. 1, Part II. But as every position in which a battalion may be placed should be susceptible of ready resistance against cavalry, the close column can always assume an efficient posture of defence, by the six centre companies wheeling outwards by threes, and closing to the front, and the two rear companies facing to the right about, the officers and serjeants taking post in the centre. The wing of a battalion, consisting of four or five

Digitized by Google

companies, can in like manner form the solid square from a close column of sub-divisions.

Squares two deep.

4. When cavalry is not to be resisted; and when the object is only to protect baggage or treasure requiring a greater internal space, it will be sufficient to form the square two deep.

Echellon of squares.

5. The formation of battalion squares, either from line or column, is to be completed as expeditiously as possible; and, if time and circumstances permit, the squares may afterwards be placed in *direct* echellon for mutual defence.

Sec. 13. Firings.

1. In all movements firing should commence after a formation, whether by companies from the flanks or centre—by wings—or by battalions; but this will depend much upon circumstances, and the discretion of commanding officers. After a march to the front, the firing of a battalion should generally commence from the centre, and not from the flanks: in successive formations, it may begin from the division on which the change of position is made.

Time of firing by divisions, &c.

2. In firing by companies from right to left—from left to right—from flanks to centre, and from centre to flanks, the leaders of each will fall to the rear, and will be careful to observe the following directions. To give the word *make ready* when the previous division *fires;* to see that their companies bring up their pieces regularly to the *present*, and to preserve the pause of slow time, viz., the seventy-fifth part of a minute, between the words "*Ready*" —"*Present*,"—the men firing when they have covered their objects.

By wings.

3. In firing by wings, one wing will receive the words *make ready* the instant the other has completed its loading; the commanding officer of the battalion will fire one wing, the second in command the other.

File firing.

4. File or independent firing from the right or left of wings, or from the right or left of companies or sub-divisions, should be most frequently prac-

Digitized by Google

tised, as being the most essential and usual mode of firing upon actual service. It should be practised in the formations to line, after an advance from the flanks, or from the centre of battalions. The divisions upon which the formation to line is made, upon such occasions, will commence the fire, while the remaining divisions are in movement; and the latter will take it up successively, as they are formed in line.

File firing during formations.

5. It is most essential that battalions should be well practised in formations while divisions already formed are firing—for precise dressing will then be difficult; and officers commanding divisions must therefore give their utmost attention to the true parallel directions of their divisions upon the line; the outer section of each division will always reserve its fire until the officer of the next division shall give the word *Eyes front* to his men, after quickly dressing them.

Attentions in file firing.

6. Great care must be taken in file firing, that it is not hurried; and that the men *present* deliberately, bringing up the firelock gradually and looking at their object before they fire,—otherwise it will lose all its effect against an enemy. The value of a soldier's ammunition, and a jealousy of its expenditure without effect, must be carefully inculcated; for in proportion as a cool and well-directed fire serves to distract and throw an enemy into disorder, so is a wild, confused, and hurried fire (which is always without effect) calculated to give him confidence and a contempt for his opponent:—it is impossible, therefore, to labour too much at giving to soldiers the habit of steady, cool, and effective firing. They should bear in mind that nothing makes so strong an impression on an enemy as the thinning of his ranks by a well-directed fire; and that nothing tends more to animate and encourage troops, than the diminished fire from ranks so thinned; affording also the most favourable opportunity for a successful charge. Commanding officers must direct their special attention to the detailed instructions on this important subject, annexed to the Manual and Platoon Exercise.

Digitized by Google

No hurry in file firing.

7. According to these principles, file firing must be conducted slowly and deliberately. Each file must bring up the piece to the present at the same time, but the rear-rank man must not fire until the front-rank man has fired; and the front rank man must always reserve his fire until the file he follows has fired: if this is carefully attended to, no hurry, and consequent loss of fire and intermission of firing, can ensue.

Firing in square.

8. In firing in square, the two front ranks are to come to the kneeling position (on preparing to receive cavalry) without cocking; because, when they are not required to fire, which can seldom be the case from each of the four faces at the same time, there is an awkwardness in half-cocking while in that constrained position. Each face will therefore fire when required, and will cock as usual at the previous word "*Ready.*" The standing ranks in square will fire independently from the right of faces, as already explained in No. 4.

Street firing.

9. A column at open, half, or quarter distance, formed in a street, or in narrow ground where deployment is impracticable, may be required to fire previous to charging forward, or by successive divisions in retiring. It will be performed in the following manner:—If advancing, the two front companies only will fire in succession; the leading company firing and loading kneeling, the second company closing to the front and firing standing. When the enemy's fire has been overcome, or at any favourable moment that may present itself, the column will charge briskly forward, and make good the ground it is contending for. In retiring the leading division will give its fire, slope arms, face outwards by sub-divisions, file to the rear, re-form company, load, and remain halted, until its front is again clear, or the whole column is put in motion. The moment the front of the second company is clear it will give its fire, face outwards by sub-divisions, and file to the rear as above directed; and so on by companies in succession. The companies thus follow each other in succession; and when the front of the column occupies the whole breadth of

Digitized by Google

the street, the outward files of companies will double in the rear, to give the companies, which have fired, room to pass. It must never be forgotten, in entering towns or villages occupied by the enemy, that the first thing to be done, on gaining a footing in the place, is *to clear the houses on both flanks*, and the column should on no account proceed through the streets, without previously occupying the houses on either hand: the troops employed for that purpose breaking through partition walls, or pushing on from house to house, so as to accompany the march of the main body and protect its flanks.

Concluding observations.

The foregoing general principles, without pretending to provide for every case that may occur in the varied operations of regiments in the field, are, nevertheless, believed to contain sufficient rules for insuring that uniformity of battalion exercise, which is so indispensable in every army, and for the preservation of which, in a service of detachment, so much depends on the careful and rigid adherence of commanding officers to a well-defined and simple code of tactics, which, while it embraces all that is essentially useful upon service, leaves no latitude for the discretionary introduction of parade movements, which only tend to divert the mind from its proper object, and to prevent the attainment of perfection in those movements and formations by the uniform and correct performance of which the efficiency of an army can alone be estimated. All complex and intricate manœuvres, which are never employed before the enemy, should be banished even from the field of exercise. They extend without necessity or use the sphere of elementary tactics, lead to erroneous views, and enchain the attention to subjects, the studious cultivation of which is of no real utility towards the attainment of military ends. The movements applicable to war are few and simple, and in the following evolutions care has been taken to retain only such as are practically useful. A readiness in reforming expeditiously, correctly, and without confusion, in every situation, are among the best proofs of a well-drilled regiment; and great pains should

Digitized by Google

be taken, in the instruction of the serjeants, in taking up their covering and distances, either by sound of bugle, or the command COVERERS to the FRONT, and in accustoming the men to form line, upon them, from a state of dispersion. On service this species of training will be found most useful, as lines are subject to be thrown into disorder, in many cases in the field, such as in a charge on difficult and broken ground; after which the line must necessarily be formed before any ulterior movement can take place.

Digitized by Google

PART II.

FORMATION OF THE BATTALION.

Formation of the battalion.

WHEN the companies join, and the battalion is formed, there is to be no interval between any of them, grenadier, light company, or other; but every part of the front of the battalion should be equally strong.

Each company which makes a part of the same line, and is to act in it, must be formed and arranged in the same manner.

Position of the companies in battalion.

The companies will draw up as follows from right to left, viz.—grenadiers on the right, light company on the left, the other companies 1, 2, 3, &c., from right to left.

Divisions.

The battalion will be told off as follows, viz., into right and left wings. By companies divided into right and left sub-divisions, into four sections numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, and into sections of threes.

Companies equalized.

The companies may be equalized in point of numbers when the battalion is formed for field movement; but it is also desirable that they should be accustomed to exercise in companies of unequal strength, as must often be the case on service.

Formation of the battalion at close order.

Ranks are at the distance of one pace.

All the field officers and the adjutant are mounted.

The commanding officer is the only officer advanced in front, for the general purpose of exercise when the battalion is single; but in the march in

Digitized by Google

line, and in the firings, he is in the rear of the colours.

The lieutenant-colonel is behind the colours, twelve paces from the supernumerary rank.

The first major is six paces in the rear of the second battalion company from the right flank: the second major at the same distance in the rear of the second battalion company from the left flank: the adjutant at the same distance in rear of the colours.

One officer is on the right of the front rank of each company, and one on the left of the battalion: all these are covered in the rear rank by their respective serjeants; and the remaining officers and serjeants are in a third rank behind their companies.

The colours are placed between the two centre companies, both in the front rank, and each covered by a non-commissioned officer, or steady man, in the rear rank. One serjeant is in the front rank betwixt the colours; he is covered by a second serjeant in the rear rank, and by a third in the supernumerary rank. The sole business of these three serjeants is, when the battalion moves in line, to advance and direct the march as hereafter mentioned. The place of the first of those serjeants when they do move out, is preserved by a named officer or serjeant, who moves up from the supernumerary rank for that purpose.

Use of the third or supernumerary rank.

The supernumerary rank is at three paces distance when in line: when in column, it is at the distance of one pace. The essential use of the supernumerary rank is, to keep the others closed up to the front during the attack, and to prevent any break beginning in the rear: on this important service, too many officers and non-commissioned officers cannot be employed.

The pioneers are assembled behind the centre of the grenadier company, formed two deep, and nine paces from the supernumerary rank.

The drummers, fifers, and buglers of the battalion are assembled in two divisions, nine paces behind

Digitized by Google

the supernumerary rank of the first and last battalion companies.

The musicians are nine paces from the supernumerary rank in rear of the centre of the battalion formed two deep, and at loose files, only occupying no more space than is necessary.

The staff, consisting of the paymaster, surgeon, assistant-surgeon, and quarter-master, are three paces behind the music.

Officers. In general, officers remain posted with their proper companies; but commanding officers will occasionally make such changes as they may find necessary.

Replacing serjeants. Whenever the officers move out of the front rank, in parade, marching in column, wheeling into line, or otherwise, their places are taken by the serjeant coverers, or senior subalterns, as may be ordered, and preserved until the officers again resume them.

When the Battalion takes Open Order.

Rear Ranks take Open Order. At the word *Order*, officers recover swords, and move at once close in front of the files opposite which they are to stand,—that is, the captain in front of the second file from the right of the company, the senior subaltern in front of the second file from the left, and the third subaltern in front of the centre file—if there is a fourth officer, the distance between the flanks will be divided. The serjeant coverers move up to the front rank to preserve the intervals left by the officers. The flank men on the right of the rear rank of each company step briskly back one pace, to mark the ground upon which the rank is to halt; they face to the right, and cover as pivots, corrected by the serjeant-major on the right.

March. At this word, the rear rank steps back one pace, dressing by the right: the officers of companies march three paces direct to the front, glance their eyes to the right, correct their dressing, and port their swords to the word *Steady* from the major, who dresses them. The officers with the colours

Digitized by Google

march forward three lengthened paces, and dress in the line of officers.

The music, drummers, and pioneers remain as posted at close order. The first major places himself on the right of the line of officers: the second major on the left: the adjutant on the left of the front rank. The staff, viz., the paymaster, surgeon, assistant-surgeon, and quarter-master, place themselves on the right of the front rank of the grenadiers, at one pace distance. The colonel and lieutenant-colonel advance ten and six paces before the colours.

The whole thus arrive at their several posts, and the battalion remains formed in this parade order, to receive a superior officer. When the battalion is reviewed singly, the division of drummers will be moved up and formed two deep on each flank of the line: the pioneers will be formed two deep on the right of the drummers of the right, and the staff will form to the right of the whole.

When the Battalion resumes Close Order.

Rear Rank take close Order.

The officers recover swords, and with the colours and staff, face to the right.

The drummers and pioneers (if on the flanks) face to the centre.

The serjeants (if in the front rank) face to the right.

March.

The rear rank closes within one pace.

The serjeants, drummers, pioneers, &c. &c., resume their places, each as in the original formation of the battalion in close order.

The officers move through and into their respective intervals, and each individual arrives, and places himself properly at his post in close order.

Colours.

When the battalion wheels by companies or subdivisions to either flank into column, both colours, and the directing serjeants always wheel to the proper front, and place themselves behind the third, fourth, and fifth file from the new pivot.

Digitized by Google

EVOLUTIONS OF THE BATTALION.

THE rules laid down in the Company Drill for the formation of columns from line, and line from columns—for marching in alignment—wheeling upon fixed and movable pivots—diminishing and increasing the front of columns—and countermarching the divisions of a column, apply equally, in all the detail of instruction, to the company in battalion. Commanding officers will, therefore, conduct their battalion drill, upon all those points, with reference to the said rules, and to the instructions contained in the General Principles; as it is not intended to frame any specific sections in the following manœuvres, to explain those formations as applied to battalion movements.

MOVEMENTS OF THE BATTALION FROM LINE.

Sec. 1. When the Battalion halted, and correctly dressed, is to advance in Line.

THE BATTALION WILL ADVANCE.

1. On the CAUTION, the rear rank will lock up, the centre serjeants, mentioned in page 8, will advance and take their direction, corrected by the commanding, or a mounted officer.

MARCH, OR QUICK MARCH.

The line of direction being thus ascertained, at the word MARCH, or QUICK MARCH, the whole battalion instantly step off, the eyes directed full to the front, the files of each wing preserving a light touch inwards; should the touch be lost, it must be taken up gradually and not suddenly, and shoulders, as well as heads, must be kept square to the front.

HALT.

When the line halts, the directing serjeants will resume their place in the battalion, and be in readiness to move out again, if required to advance after firing or dressing.

2. *When the battalion is to retire*, it must be previously dressed, with the same precision as when it was to advance; and the direction of the march must be ascertained with the same accuracy. At the word THE BATTALION WILL RETIRE, the directing serjeants face about, and the same arrangements are made, as already directed for the advance.

Digitized by Google

3. While advancing in line, the battalion may form to either flank by the divisions wheeling to the right (or left) on the movable pivot, and forming on the flank company (which will be halted in the direction of the new front) by the echellon march of divisions.

Sec. 2. When a Battalion advancing in Line is to Charge.

PREPARE TO CHARGE.

Upon the caution PREPARE TO CHARGE, the front rank will bring their arms to the long trail, and the rear rank to the slope, without permitting the motion to alter the square position of the body, or the regularity of the step.

CHARGE.

And upon the word CHARGE, which ought soon to follow the caution, the front rank only will come to the charge, the rear rank continuing at the slope, the whole battalion stepping off at the same moment at the double march.

When the battalion HALTS, both ranks will come to the shoulder, and the whole, if ordered, will dress by the centre.

Sec. 3. When the Battalion moving in Line passes a Wood, or other Impediment, to Front or Rear, by the Flank March of Companies in File.

FROM THE RIGHT OR LEFT OF COMPANIES, PASS BY FILES TO THE FRONT. RIGHT TURN, LEFT WHEEL.

1. *If to pass a wood, or other embarrassed ground to the front.*—When it is found necessary to break the battalion, the commander will give the caution FROM THE RIGHT (OR LEFT) OF COMPANIES, PASS BY FILES TO THE FRONT, followed by the words COMPANIES RIGHT (OR LEFT) TURN, LEFT WHEEL, the companies passing on as fast as the difficulty of the ground will allow them, their leaders endeavouring to preserve a relative distance from the left as being the head of the column, or from the other flank if particularly so ordered. Each officer, on arriving at the further edge of the wood will *halt* his company, and remain till the others are come up, and till the whole are ordered to march out and form in battalion; which will generally be done by standing

Digitized by Google

in open column the left in front, dressing pivot flanks, and wheeling up into line. Or if the companies form separately on the edge of the wood, they will march out and join the battalion.

FROM THE PROPER RIGHT OR LEFT OF COMPANIES, PASS BY FILES TO THE REAR. LEFT (OR RIGHT) TURN, RIGHT (OR LEFT) WHEEL. HALT, FRONT.

2. *If to pass to the rear.*—When the battalion retiring in line, arrives at the point where it must break, it is ordered FROM THE PROPER RIGHT (OR LEFT) OF COMPANIES, PASS BY FILES TO THE REAR. The commanding officer then gives his word LEFT (OR RIGHT) TURN, RIGHT (or LEFT) WHEEL, and proceeds as above directed; the heads of companies are regulated from the left; and after quitting the wood, at an ordered distance they HALT, FRONT into column the right in front, and WHEEL to the left into line. The line then again retreats if necessary.

Companies may also pass to the front or rear by sections of threes, when thought expedient.

Sec. 4. When the Battalion advances or retires by half Battalions, and fires.

THE BATTALION WILL ADVANCE BY WINGS.

LEFT WING, HALT. / MARCH, OR / QUICK MARCH.

RIGHT WING, HALT. / READY, / PRESENT, / LOAD. / MARCH, OR / QUICK MARCH

LEFT WING—HALT, READY, &c.

1. *If the battalion is in march, and advancing.*—On the caution the left wing HALTS by command of the junior major, and the right one continues to move on 15 paces, at which instant the word MARCH being given to the left wing, the right at the same time is ordered by the senior major to HALT, to fire and load, and the left marches past them, till the right wing, being loaded and shouldered, receives the word MARCH, the other wing HALTS, fires, &c., and thus they alternately proceed.

THE BATTALION WILL RETIRE BY WINGS.

RIGHT WING, HALT, FRONT.
LEFT WING, HALT, FRONT.

2. *If the battalion is in march and retiring.*—The right wing is ordered to HALT, FRONT, and when the left one has gained 15 paces, and receives the word HALT, FRONT, the right

Digitized by Google

RIGHT WING. { READY, PRESENT, LOAD. ABOUT FACE. MARCH, OR QUICK MARCH. }

LEFT WING, HALT, FRONT.

LEFT WING, { READY, PRESENT, LOAD, &c. }

wing is instantly ordered to FIRE, to LOAD, to FACE about, and march 15 paces beyond the left, where it receives the word HALT, FRONT, on which the left wing receives that of PRESENT, and in the same manner alternately proceeds, every due despatch being made in reloading.

There must be a commander for each half battalion.

One colour, before which a directing serjeant advances six paces, remains on the inward flank of each half battalion, towards which the men continue to touch; the officers of the right wing to be on the inward flank of their companies.

The make ready, present, of the advance wing, is instantly to succeed the march of the other advanced wing, or the halt, front, of the retiring wing.

Sec. 5. A Battalion formed in Line may have to move to attack, or to pass a Bridge, or short Defile, to the Front, from either Flank, or from the Centre.

RIGHT (OR LEFT) DIVISION TO THE FRONT.

REMAINING DIVISIONS RIGHT (OR LEFT) SHOULDERS FORWARD. QUICK MARCH. FORWARD.

Right (or Left) Shoulders Forward. Forward.

1. *If from a flank, by companies, or sub-divisions.*—The caution will specify from which flank the advance is to be made; and upon the word QUICK MARCH, (after the annexed command,) the flank company, or sub-division, moves on in the line proposed at the step-short pace, receiving the word forward when the second division commences its second wheel. The others advance in corresponding divisions at the same time to the right or left, according to the flank in advance; the commander giving the word, FORWARD, when the divisions shall have wheeled square into column, during which time the leaders will change to the left flanks, if the movement is from the right; and while thus wheeling into column, the front division will be gaining sufficient ground to the front to enable the others to follow by command of their leaders *Right (or Left) shoulders forward,* in regular succession, without loss of time or ground.

Digitized by Google

If the movement be made to pass a bridge or defile, the front of the column will correspond with the breadth of the bridge or defile.

FORM LINE ON THE FIRST DIVISION. REMAINING DIVISIONS RIGHT (OR LEFT) SHOULDERS FORWARD. FORWARD.
Halt, Dress up.
Right (or Left) Shoulders forward.
Forward.
Halt, Dress up.

2. When the column arrives near the point where the line is to be re-formed.—The caution is given, followed by the command, REMAINING DIVISIONS RIGHT (or left) SHOULDERS FORWARD, then FORWARD; upon which the leading division, which has continued to march on steadily, will receive the word *Halt, Dress up*, from its leader, and give the base of the formation—the other companies are brought successively into line, by the annexed command from their respective leaders.

When the line is formed from the halt, the column may close and deploy.

TWO CENTRE SUB-DIVISIONS TO THE FRONT. REMAINING SUB-DIVISIONS RIGHT AND LEFT SHOULDERS FORWARD. QUICK MARCH. FORWARD.

Shoulders forward.
Forward.

3. If the advance is from the centre.—Upon the caution, the colours, &c., will fall back to the rear of the centre, the captains of the right wing shifting to the right of their left sub-divisions, which they lead; and upon the word QUICK MARCH the whole will be thrown at once into movement, the commander giving the word, FORWARD, when the divisions have wheeled square into column; during which time the leaders of the left wing divisions will shift their flanks, and each sub-division will have an officer at the outer flank. The sub-divisions of the right and left wings will thus form into column respectively on the centre sub-divisions; each wing being conducted in the same manner, and upon the same principles, as described in the formation to the flank. During the advance, the interval between the centre sub-divisions will be closed to the directing flank.

The left is always to be considered the governing flank by which the column is to march, unless ordered to the contrary.

Double column, unless ordered to the contrary, will be formed at the distance of the divisions of which each column is composed. And they may be formed from the halt in line upon any two centre divisions, like any other columns.

Digitized by Google

FORM LINE ON TWO CENTRE SUB-DIVISIONS; REMAINING SUB-DIVISIONS RIGHT AND LEFT SHOULDERS FORWARD.

FORWARD.

4. *When the double column arrives near the point where the line is to be formed.*—It will proceed as directed in No. 2, the centre sub-division opening out by the side step, at the caution, to admit the colours. In all these formations the column may be closed to close or quarter distance, and the line formed by deployment.

FORM LINE TO THE RIGHT. RIGHT WING LEFT SHOULDERS FORWARD. *Halt, Dress.*

Left Shoulders forward. Forward. Halt, dress up.

5. *If, after having gained the desired point to the front, it be required to form line to the right from the double column.*—The right-wing sub-divisions are formed up into line by the word LEFT SHOULDERS FORWARD, and are halted and dressed in line by their respective officers; the left wing sub-divisions at the same time advance and form line on the right wing, being conducted by their respective leaders, who change their flank, and bring the *left shoulder forward* into line, dressing upon the covering serjeants and battalion points.

In the same manner line may be formed to the left, or the double column may be previously halted, the division of one wing to WHEEL INTO LINE, the other wing to advance, and form upon it in successive divisions.

In all cases of moving off from line in column by the *Shoulders forward*, whether from a flank or from the centre, the leading division will step short until the company next to it commences its second wheel, when on the word *Forward*, from its own leaders, it will step off at the usual length of pace: if this is not attended to, loss of distance between the first and second division will be the consequence.

Sec. 6. When the Battalion, halted in Line, is to form Square on any named Company.

COLUMN AT QUARTER DISTANCE ON THE (RIGHT OR) LEFT CENTRE COMPANY.

THREES RIGHT AND LEFT SHOULDERS FORWARD.

1. *If on a central company.*—The company of formation stands fast—the companies of the right wing bring their right shoulders forward, by threes, disengage to the front, and form in column at quarter distance in front of the named company, receiving from their leaders, as they successively reach their places in column, the words *Threes, left shoulders*

Digitized by Google

DOUBLE MARCH. *Shoulders forward. Halt, Dress.*

FORM SQUARE, QUICK MARCH.

SECTIONS OUTWARDS.

Halt, Right about face.

forward, Halt, dress. The companies of the left wing in like manner bring their left shoulders forward, by threes, and disengaging to the rear form in column at quarter distance, in rear of the named company. The commander will then give the word FORM SQUARE, QUICK MARCH, and when the second company has closed upon the front company, which stands fast, he gives the word SECTIONS OUTWARDS. The remaining companies, with the exception of the two rear ones, wheel outwards by sections, the rear sections closing to the front after the wheel; the two rear companies close up and form the rear face of the square, receiving from their respective leaders the words *Halt, Right about face.*

Square may be formed as above prescribed on any named company of the battalion.

SQUARE ON THE (RIGHT OR LEFT) COMPANY. COMPANIES RIGHT (OR LEFT) SHOULDERS FORWARD. DOUBLE MARCH. FORWARD. *Halt. Sections outwards. Halt. Right about face.*

2. *If on a flank company and to a flank.*—The companies wheel to the right or left as may be ordered, and when in open column receive the word FORWARD. The leading company is instantly halted by command from its own leader, the second closes on it, the remainder wheeling outward by sections as they successively arrive at quarter distance, with the exception of the two last companies, which close up, receiving from their respective leaders the words *Halt, Right about face.*

PREPARE FOR CAVALRY. READY.

3. *When the square is to resist cavalry.*—The caution will be given, and upon the word READY, the two front ranks, all round the square, come to the kneeling position, slanting their firelocks forward, and resting the butts upon the ground, but the two kneeling ranks will not cock, until required to fire. The standing ranks will fire by files; the firing to commence, and to cease, by signal from drum.

KNEELING RANKS. READY. PRESENT. LOAD.

The kneeling ranks will fire a volley, when required, by word of command from the commanding officer, either by faces or the whole at once. After the fire the ranks will resume the posture of defence, and will come to the standing position on the word LOAD.

Digitized by Google

The kneeling ranks may fire previously, resuming their posture of defence, while the standing ranks fire according to circumstances, and the discretion of the commander.

RE-FORM COLUMN. QUICK MARCH. *Halt, Dress.* *Halt, Front, Dress.*

4. *To reduce the square.*—Upon the word RE-FORM COLUMN, the rear sections of the two side faces step back to wheeling distance, the pivot men of sections face to their proper front, and upon the word QUICK MARCH, they will wheel backwards, and will be halted by their respective leaders of companies; at the same time the front, and two rear companies advance, and retire, and receive respectively from their leaders, the words *Halt, Dress*, and *Halt, Front, Dress*, when at the regular quarter distance. The square is thus reduced to the proper order in column; officers take post with their respective companies; and the line may be re-formed by deployment.

The square from quarter distance column is the simplest and best that a battalion can form in every situation; it is equally applicable to battalions of nine, eight, seven or six companies, and it is therefore invariably to be adopted in brigade, unless the following square or the two centre subdivisions is specially ordered.

QUARTER DISTANCE AND CLOSE COLUMN.

Sec. 7. When a Battalion forms a close or quarter distance Column from Line.

FORM CLOSE OR QUARTER-DISTANCE COLUMN ON —COMPANY, RIGHT OR LEFT. RIGHT (OR LEFT) FACE.

1. *If a close column either before or behind either of the flank companies*, the caution will state which company, and whether the formation is in front or rear of it, and the officer of the named company shifts by the front, if necessary, to the flank which is to become the pivot one of the column. The covering serjeant of that company places himself six paces in front or rear of that officer, (according to circumstances,) to mark the perpendicular of the front of the column. The other officers, if not already there, shift to the flanks which are to lead. The battalion will then face to that company, and the heads of the other companies will disengage to the named flank.

Digitized by Google

QUICK MARCH. The whole will move at the words QUICK MARCH to the front or rear of the named company; covering serjeants stepping out when within twenty paces to take up the distances at the proper pivot point, and each leader will proceed in the same manner as in forming an open column from line, stopping in his own person at his covering serjeant, and giving his words *Halt, Front, Dress,* when the pivot flank of his company shall reach the covering serjeant, whom he immediately replaces; remaining himself perfectly steady, and giving his whole attention to the covering in column.

Halt, Front, Dress.

In close columns the covering serjeants cover their officers; the supernumerary officers and serjeants will take post on the reverse flank. When the column is right in front, the colours to be on the right of the left centre company, and when left in front, on the left of the right centre company. In quarter distance the supernumeraries will take post in the rear of their respective divisions, and the colours will be in rear of the third, fourth and fifth files from the pivot flank of the right or left centre company, according as the column may be right or left in front.

During the formation of all such columns, as soon as the battalion is put in motion, a field officer will immediately place himself in front of the column, before the serjeant of the named company, and from thence judging the perpendicular of the column, will attend to the serjeants covering each other in that direction as they come up, whether such covering is taken from the front or from the rear, which will depend on the formation of the column.

INWARDS FACE. *2. On a central company.*—Upon the CAUTION of formation being given, the officer of the named company will place himself on his future pivot flank, the other officers will shift, if necessary, to the flank which is to lead; the battalion will then face INWARDS; the heads of companies will disengage, according as they are to be in front or rear; and at the words QUICK MARCH the rest of the formation will proceed as before directed, part of the battalion arranging itself

QUICK MARCH.

Digitized by Google

Halt, Front, Dress.

before, and part behind the given company, and the officers covering on the proper pivot flank.

FORM COLUMN AT QUARTER DISTANCE. RIGHT (OR LEFT) IN FRONT ON — COMPANY. REMAINING COMPANIES, THREES, — SHOULDERS FORWARD. Q. *or* D. MARCH. FORWARD. *Shoulders forward. Halt, Dress.*

3. *If a quarter-distance column upon any named company.*—The company of formation stands fast, and the officer shifts, if necessary. The other officers, if not already there, shift to the flanks which are to lead; the whole move at the ordered pace to the front or rear of the named company, as may be necessary to gain their proper place in column; and the formation will proceed as directed in Nos. 1 and 2.

The quarter distance column thus formed is ready to wheel into square.

CLOSE TO THE FRONT. Q. *or* D. MARCH. *or* WITHOUT HALTING, CLOSE TO THE FRONT, DBLE MARCH.

4. *The close column may be formed from any more open column,* if on the march, by the head division *halting* upon the caution, and letting the others close up, and *Halt* successively,—or, WITHOUT HALTING, by the rear divisions being ordered to close by the DOUBLE MARCH, and successively to resume the quick march; the front division having steadily continued that pace.

Sec. 8. When the Column, at close or quarter distance, marches to a Flank.

COLUMN WILL MARCH TO THE RIGHT (OR LEFT) FLANK, RIGHT (OR LEFT) FACE. QUICK MARCH.

HALT, FRONT.

The caution will express to which flank the column is to march. The whole will then face, and the officer who leads the front company will take care to march in the exact alignment, upon the point that will be given: all the others will dress and move by him; and the leaders of divisions will be careful to preserve their proper distance from him. When the column *Halts, Fronts,* the pivot officers, serjeants, &c., shift to their proper places, if not already there.

Digitized by Google

If the column is at quarter distance, it may march to a flank in sections of threes, by the command THREES, RIGHT (or LEFT) SHOULDERS FORWARD, QUICK MARCH, FORWARD.

When a close or quarter-distance column takes ground to its reverse flank, officers will not shift their pivots unless specially ordered by the commanding officer, CHANGE YOUR FLANKS; and in cases where they do not shift, the senior subalterns will conduct their respective companies.

Sec. 9. When the Column at quarter distance, moving to the Front, or Rear, takes ground to the Right, or Left, by the Echellon March of Sections.

SECTIONS RIGHT (OR LEFT). FORWARD.

1. The command will be given that the column will move BY SECTIONS RIGHT, (or LEFT,) and the companies will form echellon by sections, the pivot men of sections marking time until the echellon has taken its required direction, taking the word FORWARD from the commander of the battalion, when the requisite wheel should be made.

RE-FORM COLUMN. FORWARD.

2. Upon the word RE-FORM COLUMN, the echellon will wheel by sections, the commander giving the word FORWARD when he sees the sections are in the line of their companies.

In this movement the officers commanding companies will remain on their proper pivot flank; and when the column takes ground to the reverse flank, the covering will be taken up on the reverse flanks of companies by the senior supernumerary officer, so as to preserve the exact parallelism of the companies when wheeled back into column. Ground may also be taken to a flank by the diagonal march RIGHT (or LEFT) HALF TURN, and this may be applied at close as well as quarter distance.

Sec. 10. When a Column, halted at close or quarter distance, is to wheel on a fixed or a movable Pivot.

COLUMN TO THE RIGHT (OR LEFT) WHEEL.

1. *At close distance on a fixed pivot.*—Upon the caution (supposing the right in front) the flank file on the left of the front company,

Digitized by Google

Q. *or* D, MARCH.

whether officer or man, will face to the left; the front company stands fast, but the remaining companies make a half face to the right; the covering serjeant of the front company moving out to mark where the outward flank of the column will rest when the wheel is complete. Upon the word QUICK MARCH, the front company will wheel as usual, with the exception that the step must be much shorter, and so regulated as to give the rear companies time to come round. These companies will step off at the same moment, bringing the right shoulder gradually up, and each file circling round and covering the relative files of the division in front. The officers and covering serjeants will circle in the same way round the officers in their front; and confine their attention to their covering.

HALT.

The commander officer will give the word HALT when he sees that the leading company has completed the wheel, at which time the rear companies must also have circled round into the new direction; after which no man is to move until companies are ordered to be dressed.

RIGHT SHOULDERS FORWARD.

2. At close distance on the movable pivot.—The column while in march may change its direction on the movable pivot upon the same principle. Upon the word RIGHT (or LEFT) SHOULDERS FORWARD, all the divisions but the front one, will make a half turn to the outward flank, and circle round, covering the relative files of the division in front; and the whole will continue to wheel until the word HALT, or FORWARD, be given.

The directing flank in these wheels (whether on the movable or halted pivot) is the outward one; and to ensure the proper execution of the wheel, it is indispensably requisite, when companies are equalized, that the outward files of companies should carefully preserve their covering with the outward wheeling file of the front company of the column. The remainder of the men who are circling round by the diagonal march are guided by the outward file of their respective companies, conforming to

Digitized by Google

that file during the wheel, and considering it the regulating flank of the movement. On the word HALT the whole instantly halt, and front. The rear company, which never alters its regular pace of thirty inches, regulates the pace of the divisions in front, which step shorter or longer as they are nearer or farther from the rear company.

RIGHT OR LEFT WHEEL.

Q. or D. MARCH.

HALT.

3. *At quarter distance on a fixed pivot.*—Upon the caution, the rear divisions half face to the wheeling flank, as above directed, and at the word QUICK or DOUBLE MARCH the front division will advance six paces, and wheel at a shortened pace round the pivot man, who instantly faces in the new direction, the rear divisions circling round as directed in No. 1.

RIGHT OR LEFT SHOULDERS FORWARD.

DOUBLE FORWARD. QUICK.

4. *At quarter distance on a movable pivot.*—The commander gives the word RIGHT (or LEFT) SHOULDERS FORWARD: upon which the front division moves round at a short pace, the pivot man gradually advancing during the wheel in the new direction, until the commander sees that the rear divisions have circled round into any required alignment at proper distances. He then gives the word FORWARD; but if the wheel is to be performed in *double* time, he gives the word DOUBLE, and when wheeled to the angle required, FORWARD, QUICK, unless the column is to continue at the double time.

In all these wheels, when the companies are unequal, the reverse files must not attempt to cover the outward file of a preceding company which may be stronger, but will carefully preserve their relative situations during the wheel.

Sec. 11. When a close or quarter distance Column is to change its Front, by the wheel and countermarch of Sub-divisions round the Centre.

COUNTERMARCH BY SUBDIVISIONS ROUND THE CENTRE.

1. Upon the caution being given, two points will be placed in the centre to mark the angle on which the respective sub-divisions are to wheel the half-circle, and to mark the point at which the leading sub-divisions are to *halt*, when the countermarch is completed. The

Digitized by Google

RIGHT (OR LEFT) SUBDIVISIONS, RIGHT ABOUT FACE, Q. or D. MARCH.

HALT, FRONT, DRESS.

reverse sub-divisions will then receive the word RIGHT (OR LEFT) SUB-DIVISIONS, RIGHT ABOUT FACE. On the word Q. or D. MARCH the whole step off, and the right and left sub-divisions wheel in succession to the right, (if right in front,) the leading sub-divisions only, receiving the word *Wheel* from their leaders, and advancing at a shortened pace after the wheel, the whole touching to their inward flanks, when the leading sub-division is in a line upon the new front of the column, the whole receive from the commander the words, HALT, FRONT, DRESS, which should instantly follow the wheel of the last sub-division, when, if the countermarch has been performed correctly, the companies will stand upon their proper ground. The word FRONT applies to the reverse sub-divisions only.

Sec. 10*. When a Column at close or quarter distance is to open out to full or half distance from the Front or Rear.

COLUMN WILL OPEN FROM THE FRONT.

RIGHT ABOUT FACE.

QUICK MARCH.

Halt, Front.

1. *If from the front*, the caution will be given. The front company will stand fast; but the remaining companies will receive the word RIGHT ABOUT FACE, upon which the covering serjeants will place themselves at the second file from the pivot flanks: the word QUICK MARCH will then be given, and the leader of the rear company will march upon an object, which will be taken by him, or upon a point placed for him. The leader of the second company, counting the number of paces required, will *Halt* and *Front* his company when it shall have gained its proper distance—the others *Halt*, *Front*, in succession, their leaders commencing to count the requisite number of paces, just as the previous company receives the word *Halt*, and each leader, the moment he has fronted, will correct his covering, and remain perfectly steady in his own person, the company touching lightly to him, and rapidly taking up its dressing.

Digitized by Google

When the ground is rough the leaders of companies may be assisted by their covering serjeants, who will run out in succession, and mark the proper distance, clear of the flank of the column, the officer preserving the covering, halting, and fronting, when in line with his serjeant, who resumes his place in rear of the company.

QUICK MARCH. *Halt.*

2. *If from the rear.*—Upon the caution being given, the covering serjeants move to the second file from the pivot flanks; the rear company stands fast, and the word QUICK MARCH is given to the remaining companies. The leader of the front company marches straight upon an object, and each leader from the rear will halt the company in his front at the ordered distance.

The column may also be opened by the leading division only marching off, and each other successively following as wheeling distance is acquired from the one preceding it.

DEPLOYMENTS.

Deployments are made from column, either at close or quarter distance, and invariably on the base of the front company; or on one taken up so far in front of it as to admit of the head of the column wheeling forward by threes, when the deployment is made from quarter distance on a rear or central company. Close columns must necessarily deploy in file; and although the quarter distance column may always, when thought expedient, close to its front previous to deployment, yet, when no casualties have taken place, and the telling off can be depended on, the line may be formed with equal accuracy by the flank march of companies in sections of threes.

Sec. 11*. When the Battalion, in Column of Companies, at close or quarter distance, (Right in front,) deploys into Line.

FROM CLOSE COLUMN.

DEPLOY ON THE FRONT COMPANY.

1. *On the front company.*—The caution being given, the base points will be taken up in the prolongation of this division, and corrected from it, just beyond where the left of the battalion is to extend; the officer taking post on the right flank.

Digitized by Google

REMAINING COMPANIES LEFT FACE.

QUICK MARCH.

Front Turn, Halt, Dress up.

At the word QUICK MARCH, the rear companies step off with the heads dressed, moving parallel to the line of formation.

The officer of the second, or leading division, having stepped out to the right, at the above word QUICK MARCH, allows his division, led by his serjeant, to go on a space equal to his front, and then gives his word *Front turn.* His serjeant will run out, and take up the covering and distance in the line, when one half the front of the company is clear of the division on which it is to form. He then steps forward and places himself before the left flank of the preceding division, giving the word *Halt, Dress up,* one pace in rear of the points of formation, and expeditiously corrects his men, upon the serjeant resuming his proper post in line.

Front, Turn, Halt, Dress up.

In this manner every other company proceeds, each being successively fronted, marched up, and halted in line, by its officer, who stops on the left flank of the division which precedes him, and gives the word *Front turn,* the moment his company has gained its proper distance, so that there shall be no necessity, upon marching up to the formed line, to incline to either flank.

DEPLOY ON THE REAR COMPANY.

Double March, Halt, Dress.

2. *On the rear company.*—The caution being given, the base points will be taken up in prolongation of the front company, by the serjeants of the named rear one. The remaining companies will then face, and march as before; and the moment the front of the named company is clear, the leader will give the word *Double March,* and will *Halt, Dress,* at his base points; each other company will successively *Halt, front,* until it is uncovered, and will then advance in quick time on the alignment, observing all the details for deployment already given.

The instructions given in the last numbers apply likewise to deployments on a central company, with the exception that the battalion points must be given to both flanks, in prolongation of

Digitized by Google

such company. In deploying on a rear or central company, the company of formation will be moved up in double time; and in all cases when officers and their coverers change to the leading flank of their companies (which is always done *on the caution*) they will face outwards, and pass through the intervals, the former in front, the latter in rear of their respective companies.

In deployments, officers must look over their inward shoulders, in order to judge the distance in halting their companies.

In all deployments from close column, the rear ranks will lock close up on the caution.

FROM QUARTER DISTANCE COLUMN.

DEPLOY ON THE FRONT COMPANY. REMAINING COMPANIES. THREES RIGHT SHOULDERS FORWARD.

Q. *or* D. MARCH.

Left Shoulders forward— Halt, Dress up.

3. *When a battalion in column of companies at quarter distance right in front deploys upon its front division.*—The caution being given, the points are taken up as explained in No. 1, and on the word Q. or D. MARCH, the rear companies wheel forward by threes, and move parallel to the line of formation. As the front companies are successively cleared, they will receive from their leaders the command, *Left shoulders forward—Forward*, and when within one pace of the line if moving quick time, (or two if moving in double time,) *Halt, dress up.* The covering serjeants will run out and take up the covering and distance in the line as directed in No. 1.

DEPLOY ON THE REAR COMPANY. REMAINING COMPANIES, SHOULDERS FORWARD.

Q. *or* D. MARCH.

Double March. Halt, Dress. Shoulders forward, Halt. Q. *or* D. *March. Halt, Dress up.*

4. *On a rear company.*—The base points are given on the caution, three paces in front of the head of the column, and on the word Q. or D. MARCH, the remaining companies bring their shoulders forward, and lead straight out to the flank as directed in No. 3. As soon as the front of the rear company is clear, the leader will give the word *Double March*, and will *Halt, dress* at his base points; each other company will successively *Shoulders forward, Halt*, until it is uncovered, and will then advance on the alignment, observing the instructions given in the preceding paragraphs.

In deploying on a central company, the base points are in like manner taken up three paces in advance of the front company of the column, and the companies leading out to either flank proceed respectively as laid down in Nos. 3 and 4.

Digitized by Google

ECHELLON FORMATION AND MOVEMENTS.

Sec. 12. When a Battalion from Line wheels forward by Companies to either Flank into Echellon.

COMPANIES, —— PACES TO THE —— WHEEL. QUICK MARCH.

1. At the CAUTION, that the companies will wheel forward so many paces to the right or left, so as to place them perpendicular to their future lines of march, the officer, if not already there, moves to the named flank of his company, and the covering serjeant of each at the same time runs out, places himself opposite the centre of the 8th file from the named flank, immediately takes the said number of paces, on the circumference of the circle of which his pivot man is the centre, and then stands fast with the body dressed in the line of that flank man, who also faces into the line of his serjeant. All those serjeants ought thus to be in a line; but if any small correction is necessary, it will be made by the commanding officer from the leading flank.

QUICK MARCH.

Halt, Dress.

At the word QUICK MARCH, each company wheels up till its 8th file arrives close behind the serjeant, at which time the officer who is on the standing flank gives his word *Halt, Dress;* eyes are turned towards him, and the dressing being completed, the serjeant places himself on the outward wheeling flank.

QUICK MARCH.

HALT.

2. When the echellon thus formed marches forward and halts.—The companies standing thus parallel to each other, and their leaders being on the pivot or flanks wheeled to, the whole move at the word QUICK MARCH, each flank on its own perpendicular: each officer must be attentive to preserve the distance he marched off at from his preceding pivot, and also his oblique covering in the line of pivots. These rules observed, the echellon may at any instant be ordered to HALT, and it will then be in a situation ready to form parallel or oblique to the line it quitted;—if parallel, by each

Digitized by Google

division wheeling back to the flank of the one immediately behind it, if oblique, by the divisions moving up into the direction which the leading one then has, or may be placed in, as hereafter directed.

In oblique echellon, the colours and centre serjeants will wheel up and form a section of themselves. Thus they will occupy the same position, whether the line takes ground to a flank by echellon of companies of sub-divisions or of sections.

Sec. 13. When the Battalion, having wheeled from Line into Echellon, has marched, and halted, and is to form back parallel to the line it quitted.

WHEEL BACK INTO LINE.

QUICK MARCH.

Halt, Dress.

A CAUTION is given that the companies wheel back into line; on which the pivot men face into the line, and the officers take one step forward. At the word MARCH, each company wheels back to the pivot, and on receiving from its officer the word *Halt, Dress*, eyes are turned towards him. The line being completely formed, officers and serjeants (if not already there) move to their respective places in line, except in the occasional case of wheeling into line into the middle of a change of position: officers do not then shift from their leading flank, (unless ordered,) but remain there ready to fire, and to resume the march in echellon.

Sec. 14. When the Battalion, formed in Line, changes Front, on a fixed flank Company, by throwing forward the rest of the Battalion.

CHANGE FRONT ON — COMPANY, RIGHT OR LEFT THROWN FORWARD.

When the commander has determined the new line to be taken, by placing a person in it, 20 or 30 paces beyond the fixed flank, he orders the serjeant from before the 8th file of the flank company to wheel up into that line, thereby to ascertain the number of paces re-

Digitized by Google

— COMPANY, — PACES.

quired. He then directs that company to wheel so many paces as will bring it into the new position, and the adjutant to prolong the line as far as the outward flank of the battalion will extend.

REMAINING COMPANIES, — PACES TO THE — WHEEL.

QUICK MARCH. *Halt, Dress.*

The other companies are at the same time ordered to wheel towards it *half* the number of paces wheeled by the flank one, for by that means will each stand perpendicular to the line, which is drawn from its flank in the old line to its relative flank point in the new one, and it is along such line that each will move.

FORM LINE ON LEADING DIVISION. QUICK MARCH.

The officer being on the inner, and the serjeant on the outer flank of each company, the whole, except the company of formation, will move on at the word QUICK MARCH.

— *Shoulders forward.*

Halt.

Dress up.

When each of the divisions in march respectively approaches to twenty paces from the company already placed, the covering serjeant will run out to take up the distance in the intended line, covering from the points on which the formation is made, and when the division leader shall reach the outer shoulder of the rear-rank man, on the flank of the company formed before him, he will give the word *Shoulders forward;* and when the division shall have wheeled up on the movable pivot, exactly parallel to the intended line, with its front rank on a line with the rear rank of the formed company, he will give the word *Halt*, proceeding nimbly to the formed flank in his front, and without unnecessary pause, giving the word *Dress up*, correcting his men upon the serjeant and the battalion point.

The exact formation in this oblique line depends entirely upon the companies having wheeled (*only*) *one half* of the angle which the new position makes with the old one; for should they at first wheel the whole of that angle, they would be then marching parallel to that line, and arrive in it doubled behind each other; whereas, by having the other half of the wheel to complete, when they come near to the new position, each moves in a perpendicular direction, and vacates the ground required by the succeeding one to form upon.

Digitized by Google

In the formation of oblique line from the echellon march, it is quite essential that the divisions should not be wheeled up parallel to the intended line, until the front-rank man on the leading flank of each division shall be clear of the rear rank flank of the division formed before it; for if the wheel is made sooner, the flanks must more or less overlap, and crowding or shifting by an irregular movement must ensue to gain the line. By the front rank of each echellon division halting in a line with the rear-rank of the formed division, it will have one clear pace to dress up to the alignment.

Sec. 15. When the Battalion changes Front on a fixed flank Company, by throwing backward the rest of the Battalion.

CHANGE FRONT ON COMPANY, RIGHT OR LEFT THROWN BACK.

The new position is given, and the flank company wheeled backwards into it.

REMAINING COMPANIES RIGHT ABOUT FACE. — PACES TO THE —— WHEEL, QUICK MARCH. *Halt, Dress.*

The rest of the battalion FACES to the right about, the companies then wheel forward the given number of paces towards the standing flank.

MARCH.

— *Shoulder forward. Halt, front.*

Dress up.

The companies MARCH with their rear ranks in front, the serjeants running out at the proper time as before, and will form in line in the same manner as when changing position forward; that is, when the officer of each shall see the proper front-rank man of his leading flank clear of the rear-rank man of the flank on which he is to form, he will give the word *Shoulder forward*, wheeling past the covering serjeant, (a file giving way,) who had taken up the point of formation, and *halting* and *fronting* in the rear, with the front rank upon a line with the rear rank of the formed company as before; he remaining at the flank of appui, and giving, without unnecessary pause, the word *Dress up*, correcting his men upon the serjeant and battalion points.

Digitized by Google

Sec. 16. When the Battalion changes Front on a Central Company, by advancing one Wing, and retiring the other.

1. The company of the wing to be thrown back is wheeled backward, and the company of the wing to be brought forward is wheeled forward; or a central company is wheeled upon its centre, into the new direction. Two points are quickly taken in the line, about where the flanks of the battalion are to extend, and in the line of the central company.

— WING RIGHT ABOUT FACE, COMPANIES, —— PACES, INWARDS WHEEL. QUICK MARCH. *Halt, Dress.*

The retiring wing FACES about —both wings wheel their companies inwards and forwards, half as many paces as the central companies had wheeled.

MARCH.

The whole MARCH forward into line with the central companies, the advancing wing dressing up, and the retiring wing after passing the alignment fronting and also dressing up.

Sec. 17. When, from Line, the Companies of a Battalion march off in Echellon, successively and directly to the Front, and again form in Line, either to the Front, or to the Flank.

ADVANCE IN DIRECT ECHELLON OF COMPANIES FROM THE RIGHT OR LEFT.

1. *So long as the intention is to form to the front*—The companies may march off at any named distance whatever behind each other, and when the leading division *Halts*, the others may move on, and dress in line with it.

2. *But when it is the intention to form line to the flank*—If the echellon be formed at regular distances, the divisions of which it is composed may wheel to the right or left (according to which flank is in front), thus placing the rear division of the echellon in advance, and the whole may successively form line upon any named division perpendicular to the former front.

Digitized by Google

In direct echellon of companies from the left, the commander of the left company (as well as the leaders of the other companies) shifts to the left flank of his company. The colours are in rear of the right flank of the left centre company, if the movement is from the left, and *vice versâ* if from the right.

Sec. 18. When a Battalion in Echellon of Companies, halted, or in motion, is required to form Square.

COMPANIES, RIGHT (OR LEFT) SHOULDERS FORWARD. FORWARD. FORM SQUARE.

The commanding officer will give the word COMPANIES, RIGHT (OR LEFT) SHOULDERS FORWARD, and when the divisions are in open column, FORWARD, FORM SQUARE; and the formation will proceed as before directed.

Sec. 19. When a Battalion marching in line is to take ground to a Flank by the Echellon movement of Sub-divisions or Sections.

SUB-DIVISIONS, OR SECTIONS RIGHT OR LEFT.

1. On the word SUB-DIVISIONS, or SECTIONS, RIGHT or LEFT, the pivot men of the front rank of each, turning in a small degree to the pivot hand, mark the time for two paces, during which the named divisions wheel on those men, and the 3 files of the colours and centre serjeants also wheel up as a division, parallel to the others. At the third pace, and

FORWARD.

at the word FORWARD, the whole move on direct to the front which each division has acquired, the position of leaders being as already described.

RE-FORM LINE.

2. When sufficient ground has been taken to the flank, on the word RE-FORM LINE, the pivot men mark the time for two paces, turning back to their original front; the sub-divisions or sections instantly wheel backward into line, without altering the time, and at the third pace the whole step on, having received

FORWARD. HALT.

the word FORWARD, till the battalion is ordered to halt.

Digitized by Google

FORM LINE ON THE LEADING DIVISION. HALT.

3. When sufficient ground has been taken in echellon to a flank, and a forward formation of the line is to be made, the head division is wheeled up two paces more and halted. The rest of the battalion receives a CAUTION to form on the head division, and proceeds as directed.

In taking ground to a flank, as above directed, it must depend upon the strength of the sub-division, or section, that wheels up, and upon the angle that it is desired to take from the former front, whether the movement ought to be performed by sub-divisions or by sections:—thus a section of nine files that wheels up two paces, will stand at an angle of about nineteen degrees with its former front, while a section of five files that wheels up two paces, will stand at an angle of about thirty-four degrees. According to the strength, therefore, of the division that thus wheels, will be the degree of obliquity taken from the former position. If, therefore, a small degree is to be taken, the line may wheel forward by companies; if a greater, by sub-divisions, and if a greater still, by sections.

Digitized by Google

LONDON:
PRINTED BY C. ROWORTH AND SONS,
BELL YARD, TEMPLE BAR.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google